

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public health; providing for the establishment of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Program within the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill requires the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish, within the limits of available money, the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Program within the Division in order to establish strategies for reducing the impact of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and to coordinate efforts to assist persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in this State. This bill also authorizes the Health Division to apply for and accept gifts, grants and bequests to carry out the Program.

WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a progressive disease of the airways that is characterized by a gradual loss of lung function, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis; and

WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is currently the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, resulting in approximately 120,000 deaths annually; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, more than 12 million persons have been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and an additional 12 million persons have evidence of impaired lung function, indicating that chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is underdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 112,000 residents of Nevada are currently living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, the costs associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were approximately \$42.6 billion, including \$27.7 billion in direct health care costs; and

WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease reduces the financial costs associated with the disease and improves the quality of life of persons suffering from the disease; now, therefore,



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

Sec. 2. *Within the limits of available money, the Health Division shall establish the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Program to establish strategies for reducing the impact of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and to coordinate efforts to assist persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in this State, including, without limitation:*

1. Developing effective strategies for the prevention and early diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease;

2. Making recommendations to health care professionals concerning the treatment and management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including, without limitation, recommendations to increase access to nonpharmacologic therapies;

3. Increasing public knowledge and awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including, without limitation, the education of persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, their families, health care professionals, providers of health care and the public on matters relating to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and

4. Soliciting funding and other resources to ensure the continuation of the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Program and other programs which address issues relating to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Sec. 3. *1. The Health Division may apply for and accept gifts, grants and bequests to carry out the provisions of this section and section 2 of this act.*

2. Any money that is accepted by the Health Division pursuant to subsection 1 and any legislative appropriations made to carry out the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act must be deposited in the State Treasury and accounted for separately in the State General Fund.

3. Except as otherwise provided by the terms of a gift, grant or bequest, expenditures from the account must be made only for carrying out the provisions of this section and section 2 of this act.

4. The Administrator shall administer the account.

5. Money in the account does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of a fiscal year. The interest and income earned on the money in the account, after deducting any applicable



charges, must be credited to the account. Any claims against the account must be paid as other claims against the State are paid.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

