

Assembly Bill No. 61–Committee
on Government Affairs

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to substance abuse; creating the Substance Abuse Working Group temporarily within the Office of the Attorney General to study issues relating to substance abuse in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

In 2007, the Governor established by executive order the Working Group on Methamphetamine Use in Nevada. The Working Group was charged with studying the impact of methamphetamine use in this State, including its impact on law enforcement, correctional facilities, social services and community services, and with preparing a report of its findings and recommendations. The 2007 Working Group completed the report of its findings and recommendations. Since then, the Governor has provided for the continuation of the Working Group by amending the original executive order in 2008 and again in 2009. The current Working Group continues until December 31, 2010.

Section 2 of this bill creates a Substance Abuse Working Group within the Office of the Attorney General to study similar issues with respect to substance abuse generally in this State until June 30, 2015. **Section 2** also provides that the Attorney General serves as the ex officio Chair of the Working Group and appoints the other nine members, who serve without compensation and are not entitled to per diem or travel expenses. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Working Group to hold meetings at least every 3 months. **Section 4** of this bill specifies issues for the Working Group to study and requires the Working Group to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to each regular session of the Legislature.

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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

Section 1. Chapter 228 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. *The Substance Abuse Working Group is hereby created within the Office of the Attorney General.*

2. *The Working Group consists of the Attorney General and nine members appointed by the Attorney General.*

3. *The Attorney General is the ex officio Chair of the Working Group.*

4. *The Working Group shall annually elect a Vice Chair and Secretary from among its members.*

5. *Each member who is appointed to the Working Group serves a term of 2 years. Members may be reappointed for additional terms of 2 years. Any vacancy occurring in the*



membership of the Working Group must be filled not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

6. The members of the Working Group serve without compensation and are not entitled to the per diem and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

7. Each member of the Working Group who is an officer or employee of this State or a political subdivision of this State must be relieved from his or her duties without loss of regular compensation so that the officer or employee may prepare for and attend meetings of the Working Group and perform any work necessary to carry out the duties of the Working Group in the most timely manner practicable. A state agency or political subdivision of this State shall not require an officer or employee who is a member of the Working Group to make up the time the officer or employee is absent from work to carry out duties as a member of the Working Group or use annual leave or compensatory time for the absence.

8. The Attorney General shall provide such administrative support to the Working Group as is necessary to carry out the duties of the Working Group.

Sec. 3. 1. The Substance Abuse Working Group created by section 2 of this act shall meet at least once every 3 months at the times and places specified by a call of the Chair and may meet at such further times as deemed necessary by the Chair.

2. The Chair of the Working Group, or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair of the Working Group, shall preside at each meeting of the Working Group.

3. A member of the Working Group may designate a person to represent him or her at a meeting of the Working Group if it is impractical for the member of the Working Group to attend the meeting. A representative who has been so designated:

(a) Shall be deemed to be a member of the Working Group for the purpose of determining a quorum at the meeting; and

(b) May vote on any matter that is voted on by the regular members of the Working Group at the meeting.

Sec. 4. 1. The Substance Abuse Working Group created by section 2 of this act shall study issues relating to substance abuse in the State of Nevada, including, without limitation:

(a) The effect of substance abuse on law enforcement, prisons and other correctional facilities;

(b) The sources and manufacturers of substances which are abused;

(c) Methods and resources to prevent substance abuse;



(d) Methods and resources to prevent the manufacture, trafficking and sale of substances which are abused;

(e) The effectiveness of criminal and civil penalties in preventing substance abuse;

(f) The effectiveness of criminal and civil penalties in preventing the manufacture, trafficking and sale of substances which are abused;

(g) Resources available to assist substance abusers to rehabilitate and recover from the effects of abuse;

(h) Programs available to educate youth about the effects of substance abuse;

(i) Programs available to educate family and friends of substance abusers about the manner in which to provide support and assistance to substance abusers; and

(j) The effect of substance abuse on the economy.

2. On or before January 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Working Group shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the next regular session of the Legislature.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011, and expires by limitation on June 30, 2015.

