

SENATE BILL NO. 283—SENATOR GUSTAVSON

MARCH 21, 2011

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Requires counsel appointed for a postconviction petition for habeas corpus in which the petitioner has been sentenced to death to complete certain continuing legal education requirements. (BDR 3-1059)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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

AN ACT relating to postconviction relief; requiring counsel appointed for a postconviction petition for habeas corpus in which the petitioner has been sentenced to death to complete certain continuing legal education requirements; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides that if a person who has been sentenced to death files a postconviction petition for habeas corpus to challenge the validity of the person's conviction or sentence, and the petition is the first petition for habeas corpus that challenges such validity, the court is required to: (1) appoint counsel to represent the petitioner; and (2) stay execution of the judgment pending the disposition of the petition and appeal. (NRS 34.820)

This bill requires such counsel appointed to represent the petitioner to: (1) have completed, within the previous 2 years preceding the date of appointment, at least 10 hours of continuing legal education specifically regarding postconviction petitions for writs of habeas corpus in capital cases; and (2) complete at least 5 hours of continuing legal education specifically regarding postconviction petitions for writs of habeas corpus in capital cases for each 12-month period following the date of appointment in which they continue to represent the petitioner pursuant to the appointment.



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

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 34.820 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 34.820 1. If a petitioner has been sentenced to death and the
3 petition is the first one challenging the validity of the petitioner's
4 conviction or sentence, the court shall:
5 (a) Appoint counsel to represent the petitioner; and
6 (b) Stay execution of the judgment pending disposition of the
7 petition and the appeal.
8 2. *Counsel appointed to represent the petitioner pursuant to*
9 *subsection 1:*
10 (a) *Must have completed, within the previous 2 years*
11 *preceding the date of appointment, at least 10 hours of continuing*
12 *legal education on the specific subject of postconviction petitions*
13 *for writs of habeas corpus in capital cases; and*
14 (b) *Shall complete, in addition to the continuing legal*
15 *education required pursuant to paragraph (a), at least 5 hours of*
16 *continuing legal education on the specific subject of*
17 *postconviction petitions for writs of habeas corpus in capital cases*
18 *for each 12-month period following the date of appointment in*
19 *which counsel continues to represent the petitioner pursuant to*
20 *the appointment.*
21 3. The petition must include the date upon which execution is
22 scheduled, if it has been scheduled. The petitioner is not entitled to
23 an evidentiary hearing unless the petition states that:
24 (a) Each issue of fact to be considered at the hearing has not
25 been determined in any prior evidentiary hearing in a state or federal
26 court; or
27 (b) For each issue of fact which has been determined in a prior
28 evidentiary hearing, the hearing was not a full and fair consideration
29 of the issue. The petition must specify all respects in which the
30 hearing was inadequate.
31 ~~[3.]~~ 4. If the petitioner has previously filed a petition for relief
32 or for a stay of the execution in the same court, the petition must be
33 assigned to the judge or justice who considered the previous matter.
34 ~~[4.]~~ 5. The court shall inform the petitioner and the petitioner's
35 counsel that all claims which challenge the conviction or imposition
36 of the sentence must be joined in a single petition and that any
37 matter not included in the petition will not be considered in a
38 subsequent proceeding.
39 ~~[5.]~~ 6. If relief is granted or the execution is stayed, the clerk
40 shall forthwith notify the respondent, the Attorney General and the
41 district attorney of the county in which the petitioner was convicted.



1 ~~16-1~~ 7. If a district judge conducts an evidentiary hearing, a
2 daily transcript must be prepared for the purpose of appellate
3 review.

4 ~~17-1~~ 8. The judge or justice who considers a petition filed by a
5 petitioner who has been sentenced to death shall make all reasonable
6 efforts to expedite the matter and shall render a decision within 60
7 days after submission of the matter for decision.

8 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on January 1, 2012.

