

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 79—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION)

PREFILED FEBRUARY 1, 2013

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to early childhood education programs. (BDR 38-199)

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

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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 children; providing for the establishment by statute of the Early Childhood Advisory Council; prescribing the membership and duties of the Council; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council was created by an executive
2 order of the Governor on September 11, 2009, and was continued by executive
3 order on July 14, 2011. By the terms of the executive order signed on July 14,
4 2011, the Council will cease to exist on July 31, 2013. This bill statutorily provides
5 for the establishment of the Early Childhood Advisory Council by the Director of
6 the Department of Health and Human Services. This bill also sets forth the
7 membership of the Council, which must be appointed by the Director and include:
8 (1) one member who is a representative of the Department of Education; (2) one
9 member who is a representative of a nonprofit organization located in southern
10 Nevada that provides early childhood education programs; (3) one member who is
11 a representative of a nonprofit organization located in northern Nevada that
12 provides early childhood education programs; and (4) such other members as the
13 Director determines appropriate. The statutory Council has substantially the same
14 duties as the Council created by executive order but must also establish, in
15 cooperation with the State Board of Education, guidelines for evaluating the school
16 readiness of children.



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

Section 1. Chapter 432A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Director shall establish the Early Childhood Advisory Council within the Department. The membership of the Council must be appointed by the Director and include, without limitation:

(a) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education;

(b) One member who is a representative of a nonprofit organization located in southern Nevada that provides early childhood education programs;

(c) One member who is a representative of a nonprofit organization located in northern Nevada that provides early childhood education programs; and

(d) Such other members as the Director determines are appropriate.

2. The Council shall:

(a) Work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood education programs.

(b) Conduct periodic statewide assessments of needs relating to the quality and availability of programs and services for children who are in early childhood education programs.

(c) Identify opportunities for and barriers to coordination and collaboration among early childhood education programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, the State or a local government.

(d) Develop recommendations for:

(1) Increasing the participation of children in early childhood education programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, the State or a local government, including, without limitation, providing information on such programs to underrepresented and special populations;

(2) The establishment or improvement of core elements of the early childhood system in this State, including, without limitation, a statewide unified system for collecting data relating to early childhood education programs;

(3) A statewide professional development system for teachers engaged in early childhood education; and

(4) The establishment of statewide standards for early childhood education programs in this State.



1 (e) *Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutions of*
2 *higher education in this State in developing teachers in the field*
3 *of early childhood education.*

4 (f) *Establish, in cooperation with the State Board of*
5 *Education, guidelines for evaluating the school readiness of*
6 *children. The guidelines must:*

7 (1) *Be based on national school readiness indicators;*

8 (2) *Address the following components of school readiness:*

9 (I) *Physical and developmental health;*

10 (II) *Social and emotional development;*

11 (III) *Approaches to learning;*

12 (IV) *Language and early literacy development; and*

13 (V) *Cognition and general knowledge.*

14 (g) *Develop recommendations for increasing parental*
15 *involvement and family engagement in early childhood education*
16 *programs.*

17 (h) *Perform such other duties relating to early childhood*
18 *education programs as designated by the Director.*

19 3. *The Council may accept gifts, grants and donations from*
20 *any source for the support of the Council in carrying out the*
21 *provisions of this section.*

22 **Sec. 2.** On or before February 1, 2015, the Early Childhood
23 Advisory Council established pursuant to section 1 of this act shall
24 prepare and submit a report to the Director of the Legislative
25 Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 78th Session of the Nevada
26 Legislature on the work of the Council relating to the duties of the
27 Council set forth in section 1 of this act.

28 **Sec. 3.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of this act,
29 the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council created by the
30 Governor by executive order on September 11, 2009, and continued
31 by executive order on July 14, 2011, shall be deemed to be the Early
32 Childhood Advisory Council required to be established by the
33 Director of the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant
34 to section 1 of this act until the Director appoints the members of the
35 Advisory Council pursuant to subsection 1 of section 1 of this act.

36 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

