

Assembly Bill No. 79—Committee on
Health and Human Services

CHAPTER.....

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

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Federal law requires, as a condition of state participation in the federal Head Start program, the Governor to designate or establish an advisory council on early childhood education and care. (42 U.S.C. § 9837b) In fulfillment of this obligation, the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council was created by an executive order of the Governor on September 11, 2009, and was continued by executive order on July 14, 2011. By the terms of the executive order signed on July 14, 2011, the Council will cease to exist on July 31, 2013. This bill statutorily establishes the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council by the Governor. This bill also sets forth the membership of the Council, which must be appointed by the Governor and include membership as required by federal law, plus representatives of nonprofit organizations located in northern and southern Nevada that provide early childhood education programs. The statutory Council has substantially the same duties as the Council created by executive order but must also establish, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, guidelines for evaluating the school readiness of children.

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

1. The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council is hereby established as the state advisory council on early childhood education and care required to be established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(b)(1)(A)(i). The membership of the Council must be appointed by the Governor and include, without limitation:

(a) One member who is a representative of the Health Division whose duties include responsibility for child care;

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

(c) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education whose duties include responsibilities for programs under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq.;



(d) One member who is a representative of the boards of trustees of the school districts in this State;

(e) One member who is a representative of the Nevada System of Higher Education;

(f) One member who is a representative of local providers of early childhood education and developmental services;

(g) One member who is a representative of Head Start agencies in this State, including, without limitation, migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs;

(h) One member who is appointed or designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(a)(3)(A);

(i) One member who is a representative of the Division of Mental Health and Development Services of the Department;

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

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

(l) Such other members as the Governor 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.

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

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

(1) Be based on national school readiness indicators;

(2) Address the following components of school readiness:

(I) Physical and developmental health;

(II) Social and emotional development;

(III) Approaches to learning;

(IV) Language and early literacy development; and

(V) Cognition and general knowledge.

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

(h) Perform such other duties relating to early childhood education programs as designated by the Governor.

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

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

Sec. 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of this act, the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council created by the Governor by executive order on September 11, 2009, and continued by executive order on July 14, 2011, shall be deemed to be the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council established pursuant to section 1 of this act until the Governor appoints the members of the Advisory Council pursuant to subsection 1 of section 1 of this act.

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

