

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 482—COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR)

MARCH 23, 2015

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Provides for the establishment of a Veterans Policy Leadership Institute within the Nevada System of Higher Education and provides for the preparation of certain reports relating to veterans. (BDR 34-1197)

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 veterans affairs; authorizing the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to establish a Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute to increase research on improving outcomes for veterans, members of the military and their families; requiring the Department of Veterans Services and the Nevada Veterans Services Commission to prepare certain reports; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Under existing law, the Desert Research Institute was required to be established
2 by the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada within the Nevada System of
3 Higher Education for educational and scientific research. (NRS 396.795-396.7956)
4 The Board of Regents was also authorized to establish an Ethics Institute within the
5 System to study questions and define standards regarding medical ethics. (NRS
6 396.797-396.7975) **Sections 2-7** of this bill authorize the Board of Regents to
7 establish a Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute within the Nevada System of
8 Higher Education. The purpose of the Institute is to increase the amount of research
9 related to improving the outcomes for veterans, members of the military and their
10 families, including in the areas of education, employment and wellness. **Sections 9,**
11 **10 and 12** of this bill require the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs, the
12 Director and Deputy Director of the Department of Veterans Services and the
13 Nevada Veterans Services Commission to consult with the Veterans Policy and
14 Leadership Institute when developing and analyzing data for any reports or
15 recommendations that those entities are required to submit to the Governor and the
16 Legislature.



Section 8 of this bill requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to prepare a fiscal report regarding the amount and sources of funding received by the Department for the provision of programs and services to veterans and a comprehensive overview of the Department's budget. **Section 8** requires the Director to transmit a digital copy of the report to each veteran for whom the Department has an electronic mail address and to post the report on the Department's Internet website.

Under existing law, the Nevada Veterans Services Commission is required to advise the Director and Deputy Director of the Department of Veterans Services on various issues relating to veterans. (NRS 417.150-417.190) **Section 12** requires the Nevada Veterans Services Commission to prepare and submit an annual report to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs that summarizes its activities during the preceding fiscal year. **Section 9** requires the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs to include the Commission's annual report in the annual report that the Interagency Council is required to submit to the Governor and the Legislature.

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

Section 1. Chapter 396 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *The Board of Regents may establish a Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute as a facility within the System to increase research on improving outcomes for veterans, members of the military and their families, including, without limitation, in the areas of education, employment and wellness.*

Sec. 3. *If established pursuant to section 2 of this act, the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute may:*

1. Develop and disseminate best practices for improving outcomes for veterans, members of the military and their families through policy recommendations at the state and local governmental levels.

2. Foster the development and dissemination of research and policy for improving outcomes for veterans, members of the military and their families.

3. Develop and administer a fellowship program to increase research on improving outcomes for veterans, members of the military and their families, including, without limitation, in the areas of education, employment and wellness. If developed, the program must include, without limitation, publication of peer-reviewed materials and an annual conference.

4. Assist the Department of Veterans Services, the Nevada Veterans Services Commission and the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs in developing and analyzing data for reports and policy recommendations for the Governor and the Legislature.

5. Cultivate leadership opportunities for veterans.



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6. *Develop models for outreach to and engagement of veterans.*

Sec. 4. *The Board of Regents, on behalf of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute, may:*

1. *Enter into contracts with persons or governmental agencies to use the services or facilities of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute.*

2. *Accept gifts or grants of money or property.*

3. *Receive and hold any real or personal property, including, without limitation, patents, copyrights, royalties and contracts.*

4. *Manage, invest, use and dispose of any property received, either as specified by the donor or for the furtherance of the objectives of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute.*

Sec. 5. 1. *The Board of Regents may establish policies and procedures for personnel in connection with the operation of contractual or sponsored activities of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute, apart from those policies and procedures which are established for the professional personnel of other branches or facilities of the System.*

2. *In establishing the policies and procedures pursuant to subsection 1, the Board of Regents is not bound by any of the other provisions of this chapter or the provisions of title 23 of NRS, and none of those provisions are applicable to any person employed in connection with the operation of contractual or sponsored activities of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute except as may be prescribed by the Board of Regents.*

Sec. 6. *Any money received by the Board of Regents on behalf of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute pursuant to section 4 of this act may be deposited by the Board of Regents to the credit of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute in any financial institution in this State that is federally insured or insured by a private insurer approved pursuant to NRS 678.755. The Board of Regents may act through any authorized agent in depositing or withdrawing any money in such an account.*

Sec. 7. 1. *The Board of Regents shall establish fiscal policies and procedures in connection with the operation of contractual or sponsored activities of the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute, apart from those fiscal policies and procedures which are applicable to other branches or facilities of the System.*

2. *None of the other provisions of this chapter or the provisions of title 23 or 31 of NRS or any other statute relating to public officers and employees or public financial administration applies to the receipt, investment, management, disbursement, use,*



1 *expenditure or accounting for any money or property received by*
2 *the Board of Regents pursuant to section 4 of this act.*

3 *3. Any money received by or made available to the Board of*
4 *Regents for the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute is subject*
5 *to all laws relating to public money and expenditures.*

6 **Sec. 8.** Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
7 thereto a new section to read as follows:

8 *1. The Director shall, not later than August 1 of each year,*
9 *prepare a report that provides an analysis of the funding of*
10 *programs and services for veterans in this State. The report must*
11 *include, without limitation:*

12 *(a) The amount and sources of money received by the*
13 *Department for the provision of programs and services for*
14 *veterans in this State;*

15 *(b) A comprehensive overview of the budget of the*
16 *Department; and*

17 *(c) The expenditures made from the Gift Account for the*
18 *Veterans Home in Southern Nevada, the Gift Account for*
19 *the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada and the Gift Account for*
20 *Veterans established pursuant to NRS 417.145.*

21 *2. The Director shall:*

22 *(a) Transmit a digital copy of the report to each veteran in this*
23 *State for whom the Department has an electronic mail address of*
24 *record; and*

25 *(b) Publish a digital copy of the report on the Internet website*
26 *maintained by the Department.*

27 **Sec. 9.** NRS 417.0195 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 417.0195 The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs shall:

29 *1. Identify and prioritize the needs of veterans and servicemen*
30 *and servicewomen and their families in this State.*

31 *2. Study the coordination of the efforts of the Federal*
32 *Government, State Government, local governments and private*
33 *entities to meet the needs of veterans and servicemen and*
34 *servicewomen and their families in this State.*

35 *3. Consult with the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute,*
36 *if established pursuant to section 2 of this act, when developing*
37 *and analyzing data for any reports or recommendations that the*
38 *Council is required to prepare and submit to the Governor and the*
39 *Legislature.*

40 *4. On or before February 15 of each year, submit a report*
41 *concerning the activities of the Council during the preceding*
42 *calendar year , including the annual report submitted to the*
43 *Council by the Nevada Veterans Services Commission pursuant to*
44 *NRS 417.190, and any recommendations of the Council to the*



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1 Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for
2 transmittal to:

3 (a) If the Legislature is in session, the standing committees of
4 the Legislature which have jurisdiction of the subject matter; or

5 (b) If the Legislature is not in session, the Legislative
6 Commission.

7 **Sec. 10.** NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 417.090 The Director and the Deputy Director shall:

9 1. Assist veterans, and those presently serving in the military
10 and naval forces of the United States who are residents of the State
11 of Nevada, their wives, widows, widowers, husbands, children,
12 dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives,
13 in preparing, submitting and presenting any claim against the United
14 States, or any state, for adjusted compensation, hospitalization,
15 insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training,
16 education or rehabilitation and assist them in obtaining any aid or
17 benefit to which they may, from time to time, be entitled under the
18 laws of the United States or of any of the states.

19 2. Aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every nationally
20 recognized service organization insofar as the activities of such
21 organizations are for the benefit of veterans, servicemen and
22 servicewomen.

23 3. Give aid, assistance and counsel to each and every problem,
24 question and situation, individual as well as collective, affecting any
25 veteran, serviceman or servicewoman, or their dependents, or any
26 group of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen, when in their
27 opinion such comes within the scope of this chapter.

28 4. Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.

29 5. Serve as a clearinghouse and disseminate information
30 relating to veterans' benefits.

31 6. Conduct any studies which will assist veterans to obtain
32 compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability
33 compensation, vocational training, education, rehabilitation or any
34 other benefit to which veterans may be entitled under the laws of the
35 United States or of any state.

36 7. Aid, assist and cooperate with the office of coordinator of
37 services for veterans created in a county pursuant to NRS 244.401.

38 8. Pay to each county that creates the office of coordinator of
39 services for veterans, from state money available to him or her, a
40 portion of the cost of operating the office in an amount determined
41 by the Director.

42 9. Take possession of any abandoned or unclaimed artifacts or
43 other property that has military value for safekeeping. The Director
44 or Deputy Director may transfer such property to a veterans' or
45 military museum.



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10. Consult with the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute, if established pursuant to section 2 of this act, when developing and analyzing data for any reports or recommendations that the Department is required to prepare and submit to the Governor and the Legislature.

Sec. 11. NRS 417.145 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.145 1. The Veterans Home Account is hereby established in the State General Fund.

2. Money received from:

(a) Payments made by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who receive care in a veterans' home;

(b) Other payments for medical care and services;

(c) Appropriations made by the Legislature for veterans' homes;

(d) Federal grants and other money received pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.147;

(e) Money collected pursuant to the schedule of rates established pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 417.147 for occupancy of rooms at veterans' homes; and

(f) Except as otherwise provided in subsections 7 and 8, gifts of money and proceeds derived from the sale of gifts of personal property for the use of veterans' homes, if the use of those gifts has not been restricted by the donor,

must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Veterans Home Account.

3. Interest and income must not be computed on the money in the Veterans Home Account.

4. The Veterans Home Account must be administered by the Director, with the advice of the administrators, and except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.147, the money deposited in the Veterans Home Account may only be expended for:

(a) The establishment, management, maintenance and operation of veterans' homes;

(b) A program or service related to a veterans' home;

(c) The solicitation of other sources of money to fund a veterans' home; and

(d) The purpose of informing the public about issues concerning the establishment and uses of a veterans' home.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 7 and 8, gifts of personal property for the use of veterans' homes:

(a) May be sold or exchanged if the sale or exchange is approved by the State Board of Examiners; or

(b) May be used in kind if the gifts are not appropriate for conversion to money.



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6. All money in the Veterans Home Account must be paid out on claims approved by the Director as other claims against the State are paid.

7. The Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada is hereby established in the State General Fund. Gifts of money or personal property which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at the veterans' home in southern Nevada must be used only in the manner designated by the donor. Gifts of money which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at this veterans' home must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada. The interest and income earned on the money in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada. Any money remaining in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada at the end of each fiscal year does not lapse to the State General Fund, but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

8. The Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada is hereby established in the State General Fund. Gifts of money or personal property which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at the veterans' home in northern Nevada must be used only in the manner designated by the donor. Gifts of money which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at this veterans' home must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada. The interest and income earned on the money in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada. Any money remaining in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada at the end of each fiscal year does not lapse to the State General Fund, but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

9. The Gift Account for Veterans is hereby created in the State General Fund. The Director shall administer the Gift Account for Veterans. The money deposited in the Gift Account for Veterans pursuant to NRS 482.3764 may only be used for the support of outreach programs or services for veterans and their families, or both, as determined by the Director **and for the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute, if established pursuant to section 2 of this act.** The interest and income earned on the money in the Gift Account for Veterans, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Gift Account for Veterans. All money in the Gift Account for Veterans must be paid out on claims approved by the Director as other claims against the State are paid. Any money



1 remaining in the Gift Account for Veterans at the end of each fiscal
2 year does not lapse to the State General Fund, but must be carried
3 forward into the next fiscal year.

4 ~~{10. The Director shall, on or before August 1 of each year,~~
5 ~~prepare and submit to the Interim Finance Committee a report~~
6 ~~detailing the expenditures made from the Gift Account for the~~
7 ~~Veterans Home in Southern Nevada, the Gift Account for the~~
8 ~~Veterans Home in Northern Nevada and the Gift Account for~~
9 ~~Veterans.}~~

10 **Sec. 12.** NRS 417.190 is hereby amended to read as follows:
11 417.190 The Nevada Veterans Services Commission shall:

12 1. Advise the Director and Deputy Director.

13 2. *Consult with the Veterans Policy and Leadership Institute,*
14 *if established pursuant to section 2 of this act, when developing*
15 *and analyzing data for any reports or recommendations that the*
16 *Commission is required to prepare and submit to the Governor*
17 *and the Legislature.*

18 3. *Prepare and submit a report, on or before November 1 of*
19 *each year, to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs. The*
20 *report must, without limitation:*

21 (a) *Summarize the activities of the Commission during the*
22 *preceding fiscal year.*

23 (b) Make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, the
24 Director and the Deputy Director regarding ~~aid or benefits~~ *issues*
25 *relating* to veterans.

26 **Sec. 13.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
27 not apply to the reporting requirements of section 8 of this act and
28 NRS 417.190, as amended by section 12 of this act.

29 **Sec. 14.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

