

SENATE BILL NO. 268—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, FORD, SPEARMAN,
PARKS, KIHUEN; ATKINSON, DENIS, MANENDO AND
SEGERBLOM

MARCH 13, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN
SWANK, JOINER AND ARAUJO

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Temporarily provides certain services for veterans.
(BDR 37-1042)

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; temporarily creating the Account to Assist Veterans Who Have Suffered Sexual Trauma and prescribing the uses of the money in the Account; temporarily requiring the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to develop plans and programs to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Department of Veterans Services and requires the Director and Deputy Director of the Department to undertake certain activities to support veterans in this State. (NRS 417.020, 417.090) **Section 1.5** of this bill requires the Director and Deputy Director to develop plans and programs to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training.

Section 1 of this bill: (1) creates in the State General Fund the Account to Assist Veterans Who Have Suffered Sexual Trauma to be administered by the Director of the Department; (2) authorizes the Director to apply for grants and accept gifts, grants, donations and any other source of money for deposit in the Account; and (3) limits the use of money in the Account to assisting veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training.



Section 5 of this bill expires the provisions of the bill on June 30, 2017. **Section 4.3** of this bill requires the Director of the Department to submit to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs for transmission to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature a report regarding: (1) the plans and programs developed to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training; and (2) deposits to and expenditures from the Account. **Section 4.7** of this bill provides for the transfer of any remaining balance in the Account to the Gift Account for Veterans.

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

Section 1. Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Account to Assist Veterans Who Have Suffered Sexual Trauma is hereby created in the State General Fund. The Director shall administer the Account.

2. The Director may apply for any available grants and accept gifts, grants, donations and any other source of money for deposit in the Account.

3. Money deposited in the Account and any interest and income earned on such money must be used only to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training. The interest and income earned on money in the Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account. All money in the Account must be paid out on claims approved by the Director as other claims against the State are paid. Any money remaining in the Account at the end of a fiscal year does not revert to the State General Fund, but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Sec. 1.5. NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.090 The Director and the Deputy Director shall:

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

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



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

4. Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.

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

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

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

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

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

10. Develop plans and programs to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training.

Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 3. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 4. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 4.3. 1. On or before January 15, 2017, the Director of the Department of Veterans Services shall submit a report to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs setting forth:

(a) The plans and programs developed pursuant to subsection 10 of NRS 417.090, as amended by section 1.5 of this act, to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training;

(b) The amount and sources of money deposited in the Account to Assist Veterans Who Have Suffered Sexual Trauma created by section 1 of this act since its creation; and

(c) The expenditures made from the Account to Assist Veterans Who Have Suffered Sexual Trauma since its creation.

2. The Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs shall include the report prepared by the Director pursuant to subsection 1 in the report submitted by the Council to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 417.0195.



1 **Sec. 4.7.** The balance of any money remaining on June 30,
2 2017, in the Account to Assist Veterans Who Have Suffered Sexual
3 Trauma created by section 1 of this act that has not been committed
4 for expenditure must be transferred to the Gift Account for Veterans
5 created by NRS 417.145.

6 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015, and expires
7 by limitation on June 30, 2017.

