

SENATE BILL NO. 269—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, FORD, ATKINSON,
SPEARMAN, PARKS; DENIS, KIHUEN, MANENDO AND SEGERBLOM

MARCH 13, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN JOINER; AND ARAUJO

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Establishes an interim study committee to research
issues regarding the behavioral health and cognitive
care of older persons. (BDR S-1035)

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 health care; establishing an interim study
committee to research issues regarding the behavioral and
cognitive care of older persons; and providing other
matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill establishes an interim study committee to research: (1) potential
2 sources of state funding to support programs to aid caregivers that are providing
3 care to older persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues; (2) potential
4 sources of funding to assist Nevada's Care Connection and Nevada 2-1-1 in
5 creating a "No Wrong Door" program to assist caregivers of older adults with
6 behavioral and cognitive health issues; (3) the potential for establishing a higher
7 rate of reimbursement by Medicaid for nursing facilities prepared and trained to
8 support older persons with behavioral and cognitive needs; and (4) the provision of
9 education and training for health care professionals in the screening, diagnosis and
10 treatment of behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons. This bill
11 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide administrative
12 and technical assistance to the committee.

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

1 **Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:



* S B 2 6 9 *

1 1. Older persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues
2 are among the most treasured and vulnerable assets of this State.

3 2. The proportion of the population of the United States and of
4 the State of Nevada that consists of older persons continues to grow.

5 3. As the proportion of our population grows to consist
6 increasingly of older persons, information and knowledge pertaining
7 to behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons
8 becomes ever more crucial.

9 4. At present, many of the persons who care for older persons
10 with behavioral and cognitive health issues are unable to readily
11 obtain the information and training necessary to care for their loved
12 ones in the most beneficial manner.

13 5. It is increasingly more important to identify gifts, grants,
14 programs and other sources of money that may be used for the
15 benefit of older persons in this State with behavioral and cognitive
16 health issues.

17 6. It is progressively more imperative that natural persons,
18 agencies and other resources within this State be knowledgeable and
19 aware concerning behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in
20 older persons.

21 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a
22 committee to conduct an interim study concerning unmet needs
23 related to the behavioral and cognitive care of older persons in this
24 State.

25 2. The committee appointed by the Legislative Commission to
26 conduct the study must be composed of six Legislators as follows:

27 (a) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the
28 Senate;

29 (b) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;

30 (c) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
31 Senate; and

32 (d) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
33 Assembly.

34 3. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from
35 natural persons and organizations with expertise in matters relevant
36 to the behavioral and cognitive care of older persons in this State,
37 including, without limitation:

38 (a) An employee or other person selected or otherwise
39 designated by the Administrator of the Division of Public and
40 Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human
41 Services.

42 (b) The Chair of the Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness
43 Council, created by the Governor by executive order on
44 December 13, 2013.



1 (c) A representative from an association that provides services to
2 persons with Alzheimer's disease.

3 (d) A medical professional with expertise in cognitive disorders.

4 (e) A representative of the Nevada System of Higher Education
5 with expertise in cognitive disorders.

6 4. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a Chair and a
7 Vice Chair from among the members of the committee.

8 5. The members of the committee serve terms of 2 years,
9 beginning as soon as practicable on or after July 1, 2015, and ending
10 on June 30, 2017. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the
11 committee must be filled in the same manner as the original
12 appointment not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

13 6. The committee shall meet at least twice each year and may
14 meet at such further times as deemed necessary by the Chair.

15 7. A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a
16 quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of those
17 members present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action
18 taken by the committee.

19 8. The committee shall comply with the provisions of chapter
20 241 of NRS, and all meetings of the committee must be conducted
21 in accordance with that chapter.

22 9. For each day or portion of a day during which a member of
23 the committee attends a meeting of the committee or is otherwise
24 engaged in the business of the committee, except during a regular or
25 special session of the Legislature, the member is entitled to receive
26 the:

27 (a) Compensation provided for a majority of the members of the
28 Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session;

29 (b) Per diem allowance provided for state officers generally; and

30 (c) Travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218A.655.

31 ➔ The compensation, per diem allowances and travel expenses of
32 the members of the committee must be paid from the Legislative
33 Fund.

34 10. The committee shall research:

35 (a) Potential sources of state funding available to support
36 evidence-based statewide community programs to aid caregivers
37 that are caring for older persons with behavioral and cognitive
38 health issues. Such funding may be utilized for:

39 (1) Offering information about programs and services
40 designed to aid caregivers that are caring for older persons with
41 behavioral and cognitive health issues;

42 (2) The provision of training in select evidence-based
43 community programs for caregivers, social service providers, health
44 care workers and family members;



(3) The creation of a sliding fee scale to address the affordability of mental health services;

(4) Providing a substitute caregiver to ensure the safety of an older person who has behavioral or cognitive health issues while the family attends training; and

(5) The creation of a sliding fee scale to address the affordability of respite services;

(b) Potential sources of state funding to assist Nevada's Care Connection and Nevada 2-1-1 in the creation of a "No Wrong Door" program to assist caregivers of older persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues;

(c) The potential for establishing a higher rate of reimbursement by Medicaid for nursing facilities prepared and trained to support older adults with behavioral and cognitive health needs thereby allowing such older adults to remain in their own communities rather than being placed in out-of-state facilities; and

(d) The provision of education and training for health care professionals in the screening, diagnosis and treatment of behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons.

11. The committee shall submit a report of its findings, including, without limitation, any recommendations for legislation, to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 3. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide administrative and technical assistance to the committee appointed pursuant to section 2 of this act.

Sec. 4. The provisions of section 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

