

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11—COMMITTEE  
ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

JUNE 2, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Urges the Legislative Commission to take certain actions to provide additional services in the Legislative Building for persons who are blind, deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. (BDR R-1229)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging the Legislative Commission to take certain actions to provide additional services in the Legislative Building for persons who are blind, deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

1 WHEREAS, Persons who are differently abled make up a  
2 significant part of the population of this State; and

3 WHEREAS, Persons who are blind, deaf, hard of hearing or  
4 speech impaired contribute significantly to the general welfare of  
5 the people of this State; and

6 WHEREAS, Assisting persons who are blind, deaf, hard of  
7 hearing or speech impaired to communicate effectively is necessary  
8 to maximize such contributions and allow such persons to achieve  
9 equality in education, employment and socialization; and

10 WHEREAS, Services that persons who are blind, deaf, hard of  
11 hearing or speech impaired receive from state and local  
12 governmental agencies help them communicate effectively,  
13 maximizing their contributions and allowing them to achieve greater  
14 equality; and

15 WHEREAS, Persons who are blind, deaf, hard of hearing or  
16 speech impaired need the ability to communicate effectively with  
17 state and local governmental entities to ensure that such persons  
18 receive services that are helpful to them in a manner that ensures  
19 their dignity and equality; and



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1 WHEREAS, Persons who are blind, deaf, hard of hearing or  
2 speech impaired often have difficulties participating in the  
3 legislative process; and

4 WHEREAS, The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 42  
5 U.S.C. §§ 12101, requires that no individual with a disability shall,  
6 by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be  
7 denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of a public  
8 entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity; and

9 WHEREAS, A state government is required under the Americans  
10 With Disabilities Act of 1990 to make reasonable modifications in  
11 policies, practices and procedures that deny equal access to  
12 individuals with disabilities; and

13 WHEREAS, A person with a disability, including, without  
14 limitation, a person who is blind, deaf, hard of hearing or speech  
15 impaired and who is unable because of his or her disability to obtain  
16 equal access to the services, programs and activities of a state  
17 government may bring a lawsuit to enforce their rights and may be  
18 awarded attorney's fees as well, resulting in costly litigation for the  
19 state government; and

20 WHEREAS, NRS 218A.150 provides specific authority for the  
21 Legislative Commission to approve the expenditure of money  
22 appropriated to the Legislative Fund for necessary improvements of  
23 the Legislature pursuant to a concurrent resolution; and

24 WHEREAS, This concurrent resolution is intended to require the  
25 issue of accessibility of the Legislature to persons who are blind,  
26 deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired to be studied during the  
27 upcoming interim and to carry out some or all of the  
28 recommendations for improvements before the next Legislative  
29 Session; now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
31 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Committee on  
32 Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs is hereby  
33 directed to study and make recommendations to the Legislative  
34 Commission regarding the manner in which the Legislature may  
35 make the Legislative Building and legislative proceedings more  
36 accessible to persons who are blind, deaf, hard of hearing and  
37 speech impaired; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission is hereby urged to:

39 1. Consider such recommendations from the Legislative  
40 Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special  
41 Needs made pursuant to this resolution; and

42 2. Direct the Legislative Counsel Bureau to adopt as soon as  
43 possible any such recommendations and other protocols that the  
44 Legislative Commission deems appropriate, including, without  
45 limitation:



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1 (a) Providing closed captioning services for all legislative  
2 hearings and floor sessions;

3 (b) Making reasonable accommodations to provide interpreters  
4 for those who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired;

5 (c) Developing and providing auxiliary aids and services for  
6 those who are blind or who have low or limited vision; and

7 (d) Outfitting the Legislative Building in ways that increase  
8 accessibility and civic engagement for persons who are blind, deaf,  
9 hard of hearing or speech impaired; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission is hereby  
11 authorized to approve expenditures of not more than \$2,000,000  
12 from the Legislative Fund created by NRS 218A.150 to allow the  
13 Legislative Counsel Bureau to implement as many  
14 recommendations and protocols provided in this resolution as  
15 possible before the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Counsel Bureau prepare and  
18 submit a report to the 80th Session of the Legislature regarding the  
19 recommendations and protocols that were adopted and implemented  
20 and identifying the effect of such adoption and implementation.

