

Assembly Bill No. 150–Committee on
Health and Human Services

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to child welfare; requiring the establishment of a working group to study ways to improve the outcomes for persons who leave the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services when they reach 18 years of age; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes a child whom a court places with a person or entity other than a parent and who reaches 18 years of age to request the court to retain jurisdiction over the child until the child reaches the age of 21 years. If a court retains jurisdiction over a child in such circumstances, the child is required to enter into an agreement with the agency which provides child welfare services. Such an agreement is required to provide that the child is entitled to: (1) continue receiving services from the agency which provides child welfare services; and (2) receive monetary payments directly or to have such payments provided to another entity in an amount not to exceed the rate of payment for foster care. (NRS 432B.594) Existing law additionally requires the agency which provides child welfare services to develop a written plan to assist the child in transitioning into independent living. (NRS 432B.595) **Section 9.5** of this bill requires the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to study: (1) that program and other programs to improve the outcomes for persons who leave the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services upon reaching 18 years of age in this State and other states; and (2) possible ways to improve those outcomes. **Section 9.5** requires the Division to submit a report to the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice concerning the activities, conclusions and recommendations of the working group. **Section 10** of this bill appropriates money to the Division for personnel costs to develop the plan.

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:

Sections 1-9. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 9.5. 1. The Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a working group comprised of representatives of agencies which provide child welfare services, representatives of other agencies and organizations that provide social services, attorneys who represent children in the custody of agencies which provide child welfare services and other interested persons and entities. The working group shall:



(a) Analyze data relating to the implementation and results of programs in this State and other states that have been established to improve the outcomes for persons who leave the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services upon reaching 18 years of age, including, without limitation:

(1) The program established pursuant to NRS 432B.591 to 432B.595, inclusive, that allows a child who is over 18 years of age to voluntarily remain under the jurisdiction of a court under the conditions prescribed by NRS 432B.594; and

(2) Any such program that obtains federal financial participation under 42 U.S.C. §§ 670 et seq.; and

(b) Study potential ways to improve outcomes for persons in this State who leave the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services upon reaching 18 years of age.

2. On or before October 1, 2020, the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice a report which must include, without limitation:

(a) A summary of the activities carried out by the working group pursuant to subsection 1 and the conclusions of the working group as a result of those activities;

(b) Any recommendations of the working group to improve the outcomes for persons who leave the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services upon reaching 18 years of age in this State, including, without limitation, any recommendations for legislation and changes to regulation or policy; and

(c) A summary of the estimated fiscal impact of those recommendations.

3. As used in this section, “agency which provides child welfare services” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.

Sec. 10. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes described in subsection 2 the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2019-2020..... \$35,553

For the Fiscal Year 2020-2021..... \$11,345

2. The Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services shall use the money appropriated pursuant to subsection 1 for personnel costs to carry out the provisions of section 9.5 of this act.

3. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal



years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 18, 2020, and September 17, 2021, respectively, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 18, 2020, and September 17, 2021, respectively.

Sec. 11. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

