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FIRST REPRINT

S.B. 270

SENATE BILL NO. 270—SENATORS D. HARRIS,
RATTI; AND SEEVERS GANSERT

MARCH 13, 2019

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYMAN THOMPSON

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and administer the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System. (BDR 38-792)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
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 public welfare; requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and administer the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System; requiring the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System to provide certain services to persons who are transient, at imminent risk of homelessness or homeless; authorizing the Director of the Department to solicit and accept money to carry out the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System; requiring the Department to submit an annual report to the Legislature concerning activities and services to prevent homelessness in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 To the extent that money is available for that purpose, **section 2** of this bill
- 2 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and administer
- 3 the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System. **Section 2** requires the Nevada
- 4 Housing Crisis Response System to: (1) coordinate with social service agencies,
- 5 local governments and nonprofit organizations to identify, assess, refer and connect
- 6 persons who are transient, at imminent risk of homelessness or homeless to
- 7 housing, assistance and services; (2) provide and operate a system for responding to
- 8 a crisis that is accessible by such persons 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; (3)
- 9 provide education or information on how such persons may access and use the



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System for responding to a crisis; and (4) develop certain prevention assistance programs. **Section 2** additionally authorizes the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System to perform any other action that: (1) assists persons who are transient, at imminent risk of homelessness or homeless; and (2) helps prevent or address homelessness in this State. **Section 2** further authorizes the Department to adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System, including regulations that require a person or entity that accepts money from the Department or a division thereof to participate in the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System.

Section 3 of this bill authorizes the Director of the Department to solicit and accept gifts, grants, contributions and other money from any public or private source to carry out the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System. **Section 3.3** of this bill requires the Department to submit an annual report to the Legislature concerning activities and services to prevent homelessness in this State.

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

Section 1. Chapter 422A of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 3.3 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. *To the extent that money is available for this purpose, the Department shall establish and administer the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System.*

2. *The System must:*

(a) *Coordinate with social service agencies, local governments and nonprofit organizations to, as quickly as possible, identify, assess, refer and connect persons in crisis to housing, assistance and services, including, without limitation, emergency services, emergency shelters, interim housing and permanent housing.*

(b) *Provide and operate a system for responding to a crisis that is accessible by a person in crisis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays, through which a person in crisis may be identified, assessed, referred and connected to housing, assistance and services pursuant to paragraph (a).*

(c) *Provide education or information on how persons in crisis may access and use the System for responding to a crisis that is provided pursuant to paragraph (b).*

(d) *To prevent homelessness, develop prevention assistance programs that assist persons who are:*

(1) *Transient or at imminent risk of homelessness in:*

(I) *Preserving their current housing situation;*

(II) *Identifying housing arrangements as an alternative to their current housing situation; or*

(III) *Immediately finding housing arrangements for persons who are leaving a housing situation that is not safe; and*

(2) *Homeless in finding housing arrangements.*



3. *The System may perform any other action that:*

(a) *Assists persons in crisis; and*

(b) *Helps prevent or address homelessness in this State.*

4. *The Department may adopt such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and section 3 of this act, including, without limitation, regulations requiring a person or entity that accepts money from the Department or a division thereof to participate in the System.*

5. *As used in this section, "person in crisis" means a person who is transient, at imminent risk of homelessness or homeless.*

Sec. 3. 1. *The Director may solicit and accept gifts, grants, contributions or other money from any public or private source and may expend the money, subject to any limitations contained in the gift, grant or contribution or placed on the money, to carry out the provisions of section 2 of this act.*

2. *Money received by the Director pursuant to this section must be accounted for separately in the State General Fund. The money in the account does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.*

Sec. 3.3. *On or before January 31 of each year, the Department shall submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature a report concerning activities or services designed to prevent homelessness in this State. The report must include, without limitation, information concerning:*

1. *The activities of and services provided through the Nevada Housing Crisis Response System established pursuant to section 2 of this act;*

2. *Any other activities or services provided by the Department or any division thereof to prevent homelessness; and*

3. *Any activities or services provided by any other state or local governmental entity, nonprofit organization or other person or entity in this State to prevent homelessness.*

Sec. 3.7. *The provisions of subsection 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. 4. *This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.*

