

SENATE BILL NO. 222—SENATOR SCHEIBLE

MARCH 11, 2021

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to governmental administration. (BDR 18-245)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

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

AN ACT relating to governmental administration; requiring a state agency to collaborate with minority groups and provide certain information to minority groups; requiring, with certain exceptions, a state agency to designate a diversity and inclusion liaison and provide the contact information for the designated diversity and inclusion liaison; requiring the Office of Minority Health and Equity of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs of the Department of Business and Industry and the Office for New Americans in the Office of the Governor to facilitate an annual meeting between diversity and inclusion liaisons and minority groups and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislative Commission; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Office of Minority Health and Equity within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs of the Department of Business and Industry and the Office for New Americans in the Office of the Governor to study and work on issues affecting minorities and immigrants. (NRS 223.900-223.930, 232.467-232.484, 232.850-232.866)

Section 9 of this bill requires each state agency to collaborate with minority groups on policies and programs that affect minority groups and ensure that programs and services are accessible and inclusive. **Section 10** of this bill requires each state agency, to the extent practicable, to designate a diversity and inclusion liaison and sets forth the duties of such a liaison. **Section 11** of this bill requires a state agency to post on its Internet website the name and contact information of its



* S B 2 2 2 R 1 *

diversity and inclusion liaison, if one has been designated, and provide that information to the Office of Minority Health and Equity, the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs and the Office for New Americans. **Section 12** of this bill requires the Office of Minority Health and Equity, the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs and the Office for New Americans to collaborate to facilitate a meeting between diversity and inclusion liaisons and representatives of minority groups at least once a year. **Section 12** also requires the Office of Minority Health and Equity, the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs and the Office for New Americans to compile and submit a report to the Governor and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on the findings and recommendations from the meeting.

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

Section 1. Chapter 232 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. *As used in sections 2 to 12, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in sections 3 to 8, inclusive, of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*

Sec. 3. *“Commission on Minority Affairs” means the Nevada Commission on Minority Affairs of the Department created by NRS 232.852.*

Sec. 4. 1. *“Minority group” means:*

(a) A racial or ethnic minority group;

(b) A group of persons with disabilities;

(c) A group of persons that share the same sexual orientation;
or

(d) A group of persons whose gender-related identity, appearance, expression or behavior is different than that assigned at birth.

2. *As used in this section, “sexual orientation” means having or being perceived as having an orientation for heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.*

Sec. 4.5. *“Office for New Americans” means the Office for New Americans created in the Office of the Governor by NRS 223.910.*

Sec. 5. *“Office of Minority Health and Equity” means the Office of Minority Health and Equity created within the Department of Health and Human Services by NRS 232.474.*

Sec. 6. *“Policy” means an official public policy of a state agency that creates a common practice relating to a class of issues.*

Sec. 7. *“Program” means an official program of a state agency.*



1 **Sec. 8.** *“State agency” means every agency, department or*
2 *division of the Executive Department of State Government.*

3 **Sec. 9.** *Each state agency shall make a reasonable effort to:*
4 *1. Collaborate with members of minority groups in the*
5 *development and implementation of policies and programs of the*
6 *state agency that directly affect minority groups.*

7 *2. Ensure that programs and services offered by the state*
8 *agency are accessible to and inclusive of minority groups.*

9 *3. Communicate effectively with minority groups by making*
10 *information about programs and services available in multiple*
11 *languages whenever possible.*

12 **Sec. 10.** *Each state agency that interacts or communicates*
13 *with minority groups or offers programs and services that affect*
14 *minority groups shall, to the extent practicable, designate a*
15 *diversity and inclusion liaison. The diversity and inclusion liaison*
16 *shall:*

17 *1. Assist the state agency with:*
18 *(a) Promoting effective communication with minority groups;*
19 *(b) Promoting cultural competency in providing effective*
20 *services to minority groups; and*

21 *(c) Establishing a method for notifying employees of a state*
22 *agency of the provisions of sections 1 to 12, inclusive, of this act.*

23 *2. Serve as a contact person who shall maintain ongoing*
24 *communication between the state agency and members of minority*
25 *groups.*

26 *3. Provide technical assistance to the state agency on new*
27 *programs and services offered by the state agency that are*
28 *intended to increase accessibility and inclusivity for members of*
29 *minority groups.*

30 *4. Collaborate with diversity and inclusion liaisons*
31 *designated by other state agencies to increase the accessibility and*
32 *inclusivity of services to members of minority groups.*

33 **Sec. 11.** *A state agency that designates a diversity and*
34 *inclusion liaison pursuant to section 10 of this act shall:*

35 *1. Publish on its Internet website the name and contact*
36 *information of the state agency’s diversity and inclusion liaison.*

37 *2. Provide the name and contact information of the state*
38 *agency’s diversity and inclusion liaison to the Office of Minority*
39 *Health and Equity, the Commission on Minority Affairs and the*
40 *Office for New Americans.*

41 **Sec. 12.** *1. At least once each year, the Office of Minority*
42 *Health and Equity, the Commission on Minority Affairs and the*
43 *Office for New Americans shall collaborate to facilitate a meeting*
44 *between diversity and inclusion liaisons designated pursuant to*



1 *section 10 of this act and representatives of various minority*
2 *groups to make recommendations regarding and address:*

3 *(a) Matters of mutual concern between state agencies and*
4 *minority groups;*

5 *(b) Opportunities to collaborate and increase the accessibility*
6 *and inclusivity of services delivered to minority groups;*

7 *(c) The need for state agencies to eliminate systemic racism*
8 *and structures of racial discrimination within the State of Nevada;*
9 *and*

10 *(d) Strategies for ensuring that members of minority groups*
11 *are able to access programs and services offered by the state*
12 *agency and interact with the State Government.*

13 *2. On or before January 1 of each year, the Office of*
14 *Minority Health and Equity, the Commission on Minority Affairs,*
15 *and the Office for New Americans shall collaborate on and submit*
16 *to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel*
17 *Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Commission a report on*
18 *the findings and recommendations from the meeting required by*
19 *subsection 1.*

20 **Sec. 13.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
21 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
22 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

23 **Sec. 14.** This act becomes effective on January 1, 2022.

