

Senate Bill No. 424—Committee on Finance

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public health; creating the Public Health Resource Office within the Office of the Governor; providing for the appointment of the Public Health Resource Officer; prescribing the duties of the Public Health Resource Office; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law establishes various offices within the Office of the Governor. (NRS 223.400-223.930) **Section 1** of this bill: (1) creates the Public Health Resource Office within the Office of the Governor; and (2) requires the Governor to appoint the Public Health Resource Officer. **Section 1** requires the Office to perform certain duties to improve the delivery of public health services and otherwise meet the public health needs of this State. **Section 1.3** of this bill authorizes the Governor to employ staff for the Public Health Resource Office, and **section 1.6** of this bill makes an appropriation for the personnel, travel, operating and equipment costs of the Office.

Existing law creates the Office of Minority Health and Equity within the Department of Health and Human Services to: (1) improve the quality of health care services for members of minority groups; (2) increase access to health care services for members of minority groups; (3) disseminate information to and educate the public on matters concerning health care issues of interest to members of minority groups; and (4) develop recommendations for changes in policy and advocate on behalf of minority groups. (NRS 232.474) **Section 1.5** of this bill requires the Office of Minority Health and Equity to advise the Public Health Resource Officer concerning strategies to address disparate health outcomes in certain communities. **Section 1.9** of this bill makes an appropriation for the personnel, travel, operating and equipment costs to perform this duty.

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

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 223 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The Public Health Resource Office is hereby created within the Office of the Governor.*

*2. The Governor shall appoint a person who is knowledgeable in the field of public health to serve as the Public Health Resource Officer. The Public Health Resource Officer is not in the classified or unclassified service of the State and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.*

*3. The Public Health Resource Office may accept gifts, grants and donations to support its duties.*



**4. The Public Health Resource Office shall:**

**(a) Analyze the existing infrastructure for meeting the public health needs of this State and the relationships between persons and entities involved in the provision of public health services, including, without limitation, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, local health authorities, providers of health care, health care facilities and nonprofit organizations; and**

**(b) Identify and make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department concerning:**

**(1) Unmet needs for public health services;**

**(2) Opportunities to obtain federal or private funding to support public health services; and**

**(3) Ways in which to improve coordination between providers of public health services and maximize efficiency in the delivery of public health services.**

**Sec. 1.3.** NRS 223.085 is hereby amended to read as follows:

223.085 1. The Governor may, within the limits of available money, employ such persons as he or she deems necessary to provide an appropriate staff for the Office of the Governor, including, without limitation, the Office of Economic Development, the Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, the Office of the Western Regional Education Compact, the Office of Workforce Innovation, **the Public Health Resource Office** and the Governor's mansion. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, such employees are not in the classified or unclassified service of the State and, except as otherwise provided in NRS 231.043 and 231.047, serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

2. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, the Governor shall:

(a) Determine the salaries and benefits of the persons employed pursuant to subsection 1, within limits of money available for that purpose; and

(b) Adopt such rules and policies as he or she deems appropriate to establish the duties and employment rights of the persons employed pursuant to subsection 1.

3. The Governor may:

(a) Appoint a Chief Information Officer of the State; or

(b) Designate the Administrator as the Chief Information Officer of the State.



➡ If the Administrator is so appointed, the Administrator shall serve as the Chief Information Officer of the State without additional compensation.

4. As used in this section, “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services of the Department of Administration.

**Sec. 1.5.** NRS 232.475 is hereby amended to read as follows:

232.475 1. In accomplishing its purposes, the Office shall:

(a) Provide a central source of information for the use of the public concerning health care services for members of minority groups and health care issues of interest to those members;

(b) Identify and use any available resources for the improvement of the quality of health care services for members of minority groups and for increased access to health care services for those members;

(c) Develop and coordinate plans and programs to improve the quality of health care services for members of minority groups and to increase access to health care services for those members, including, without limitation, plans and programs that primarily serve local communities;

(d) *Research and make recommendations to the Public Health Resource Officer appointed pursuant to section 1 of this act concerning strategies to address disparate health outcomes in:*

*(1) Communities of Black persons, Indigenous persons and persons of color resulting from systemic racism and structures of racial discrimination; and*

*(2) Rural communities and other underserved communities;*

(e) Hold conferences and provide training concerning cultural diversity in the workplace for public and private entities that offer services in the field of health care, including, without limitation, providing recommendations and opportunities for training for such public and private entities to improve recruitment of members of minority groups;

~~(e)~~ (f) Whenever possible, incorporate the use of bilingual communication in its programs and activities;

~~(f)~~ (g) Publicize health care issues of interest to members of minority groups; and

~~(g)~~ (h) Develop and carry out such other programs and activities as the Office deems appropriate.

2. In carrying out the duties set forth in subsection 1, the Office may seek assistance from and cooperate with a public or private entity.



**Sec. 1.6.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Public Health Resource Office within the Office of the Governor created by section 1 of this act for personnel, travel, operating and equipment costs the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 ..... \$176,079  
For the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 ..... \$226,799

2. 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 16, 2022, and September 15, 2023, 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 16, 2022, and September 15, 2023, respectively.

**Sec. 1.9.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services for the personnel, travel, operating and equipment costs to carry out the provisions of paragraph (d) of subsection 1 of NRS 232.475, as amended by section 1.5 of this act, the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 ..... \$76,062  
For the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 ..... \$98,511

2. 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 16, 2022, and September 15, 2023, 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 16, 2022, and September 15, 2023, respectively.

**Sec. 2.** Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 218D.430 and 218D.435, a committee, other than the Assembly Standing Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, may vote on this act before the expiration of the period prescribed for the return of a fiscal note in NRS 218D.475. This section applies retroactively from and after March 22, 2021.



**Sec. 3.** 1. This section and section 2 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1, 1.3 and 1.5 of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks; and

(b) On July 1, 2021, for all other purposes.

3. Sections 1.6 and 1.9 of this act become effective on July 1, 2021.

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