ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 15–COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES)

PREFILED OCTOBER 28, 2026

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to appointed defense counsel in criminal proceedings. (BDR 1-141)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State Highway Fund: No.

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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 criminal defense; revising provisions relating to claims for compensation and expenses made by appointed defense counsel in criminal proceedings; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides that an attorney, other than a public defender, who is appointed to represent or defend a person during any stage of a criminal proceeding is entitled to receive compensation for court appearances and other time reasonably spent on the matter. (NRS 7.125) Additionally, existing law authorizes reimbursement for any necessary expenses reasonably incurred by such an attorney during such representation. (NRS 7.135) Existing law prohibits payment of compensation and expenses unless such an attorney submits a claim within 60 days after the representation is terminated. (NRS 7.145)

Section 1 of this bill instead allows such an attorney to submit a claim within 90 days after performing the compensable service or incurring the expense. **Section 2** of this bill provides that the amendatory provisions of this bill apply to claims submitted by such an attorney who is appointed on or after July 1, 2027, the effective date of this bill.

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

Section 1. NRS 7.145 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7.145 1. A claim for compensation and expenses made pursuant to NRS 7.125 or 7.135 must not be paid unless it is submitted within ~~[60]~~ ***90*** days after the ~~[representation is terminated:]~~ ***date the attorney performed the compensable service or incurred the expense:***

(a) In a county whose population is less than 100,000, to the Department or its designee in compliance with the plan of the county for the provision of indigent defense services; or

(b) In a county whose population is 100,000 or more, in compliance with the plan of the county for the provision of indigent defense services.

2. Each claim must be:

(a) Supported by a sworn statement specifying the time expended in court, the services rendered out of court and the time expended therein, the expenses incurred while the case was pending and the compensation and reimbursement applied for or received in the same case from any other source.

(b) Reviewed and, if necessary, modified and paid in compliance with the plan of the county for the provision of indigent defense services.

3. Any dispute regarding the approval, denial or modification of a claim may be reviewed by the trial court based upon reasonable and necessary standards.

Sec. 2. The amendatory provisions of this act apply to a claim for compensation and expenses made pursuant to NRS 7.125 or 7.135 that is submitted by an attorney who is appointed on or after July 1, 2027.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2027.