SENATE BILL NO. 51–COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the Department of Corrections. (BDR 16-132)

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 the Department of Corrections; requiring the appointment of an associate warden for each institution of the Department; revising the classification of wardens and associate wardens of the Department; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law governs generally the employment of persons in the classified and unclassified service of the State. (Chapter 284 of NRS) Existing law requires the Director of the Department of Corrections to appoint a warden for each institution of the Department and establishes that each warden is in the classified service of the State, except for purposes of appointment and retention. (NRS 209.161)

Section 1 of this bill additionally requires the Director to appoint an associate warden for each institution of the Department. **Section 1** also places the positions of warden and associate warden in the unclassified service of the State. **Section 2** of this bill makes conforming changes relating to the classified service of the State to reflect the changes made by **section 1**.

Section 3 of this bill clarifies that a person who is in the position of warden on July 1, 2027, remains in the classified service of the State, except for purposes of retention, until the person vacates that position. **Section 3** also clarifies that a person who is in the position of associate warden on July 1, 2027, remains in the classified service of the State until the person vacates that position.

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

Section 1. NRS 209.161 is hereby amended to read as follows:

209.161 1. The Director shall appoint a warden ***and an associate warden*** for each institution of the Department.

2. Each warden ***and associate warden*** is in the ~~[classified]~~ ***unclassified*** service of the State ***.*** ~~[except for purposes of appointment and retention.]~~

3. Each warden is responsible to the Director for the administration of his or her institution, including the execution of all policies and the enforcement of all regulations of the Department pertaining to the custody, care and training of offenders under his or her jurisdiction.

Sec. 2. NRS 284.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

284.150 1. The classified service of the State of Nevada is comprised of all positions in the public service now existing or hereafter created which are:

(a) Lawfully designated as being in the classified service; and

(b) Filled from the pools of eligible persons prepared by appointing authorities upon the basis of evaluation by an appointing authority, except as otherwise provided in this chapter ***.*** ~~[and NRS 209.161.]~~

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 193.105 ~~[, 209.161]~~ and 416.070, a person must not be appointed, transferred, promoted, demoted or discharged in the classified service in any manner or by any means other than those prescribed in this chapter and the regulations adopted in accordance therewith.

3. A person must not be discriminated against on account of the person's religious or political opinions or affiliations, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or disability.

Sec. 3. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

1. A person who has been appointed to or is otherwise incumbent in the position of warden as of July 1, 2027, is in the classified service of the State, except for purposes of retention, and must remain in the classified service of the State until he or she vacates the position.

2. A person who has been appointed or is otherwise incumbent in the position of associate warden as of July 1, 2027, is in the classified service of the State and must remain in the classified service of the State until he or she vacates the position.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2027.