

Assembly Bill No. 114–Assemblywoman Thomas

Joint Sponsor: Senator Nguyen

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to children; revising the membership of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council; defining the term “early childhood program” for purposes of the duties of the Council; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law establishes the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and sets forth the minimum membership of the Council, who are to be appointed by the Governor. The Governor is also authorized to appoint such additional members to the Council as the Governor determines are necessary. (NRS 432A.076) This bill requires that the membership of the Council include: (1) one member who is a representative of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services whose duties include responsibility for maternal, child and adolescent health; (2) one member who is a representative of the Program for Child Care and Development in the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department; (3) one member who is a representative of a public school who works with pupils in kindergarten through grade 3; (4) one member who is a representative of a tribal organization; and (5) at least one member who is a parent or guardian of a child less than 8 years of age and who has participated in one or more federal or state early childhood programs. This bill provides that the member who is appointed as a representative of the Department of Education whose duties include responsibilities for certain programs may, alternatively, be a representative of the Department of Health and Human Services whose duties include similar responsibilities. This bill also defines the term “early childhood program” for purposes of the duties of the Council as any program that stimulates physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development for children less than 8 years of age pertaining to: (1) nutrition; (2) health care; (3) mental and behavioral health; (4) protection; and (5) play and learning.

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

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

Section 1. NRS 432A.076 is hereby amended to read as follows:

432A.076 1. The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council is hereby established as the state advisory council on early childhood education and care required to be established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(b)(1)(A)(i). The membership of the Council must be appointed by the Governor and include, without limitation:



(a) One member who is a representative of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department whose duties include responsibility for child care;

(b) *One member who is a representative of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department whose duties include responsibility for maternal, child and adolescent health;*

(c) *One member who is a representative of the Program for Child Care and Development, as defined in NRS 422A.055;*

(d) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education;

~~(e)~~ (e) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education whose duties include responsibilities for programs under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq. ~~(f)~~, *or a representative of the Department of Health and Human Services whose duties include responsibilities for programs under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq.;*

~~(f)~~ (f) One member who is a representative of the boards of trustees of the school districts in this State;

~~(g)~~ (g) One member who is a representative of the Nevada System of Higher Education;

~~(h)~~ (h) One member who is a representative of local providers of early childhood education and developmental services;

~~(i)~~ (i) *One member who is a representative of a public school, as defined in NRS 385.007, who works with pupils in kindergarten through grade 3;*

(j) One member who is a representative of Head Start agencies in this State, including, without limitation, migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs;

~~(k)~~ (k) One member who is appointed or designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(a)(3)(A);

~~(l)~~ (l) One member who is a representative of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department;

~~(m)~~ (m) One member who is a representative of a nonprofit organization located in southern Nevada that provides early childhood ~~education~~ programs;

~~(n)~~ (n) One member who is a representative of a nonprofit organization located in northern Nevada that provides early childhood ~~education~~ programs;

~~(o)~~ (o) One member who is a representative of the pediatric mental, physical or behavioral health care industry;



(p) One member who is a representative of a tribal organization, with consideration given to an enrolled member of a Nevada Indian tribe;

(q) At least one member who is a parent or guardian of a child less than 8 years of age and who has participated in one or more federal or state early childhood programs, including, without limitation:

(1) The Program for Child Care and Development administered by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services of the Department pursuant to chapter 422A of NRS;

(2) Head Start or Early Head Start;

(3) Nevada Home Visiting Program in the Department;

(4) Nevada Ready! State Pre-K program in the Department of Education; or

(5) The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children in the United States Department of Agriculture; and

~~[(m)]~~ *(r) Such other members as the Governor determines are appropriate.*

2. In making the appointment of any member pursuant to paragraph (q) of subsection 1, the Governor, to the extent practicable, must give preference to a parent or guardian who represents a diverse population of this State.

3. The Council shall:

(a) Work to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among the various sectors and settings of early childhood ~~[education]~~ programs.

(b) Conduct periodic statewide assessments of needs relating to the quality and availability of programs and services for children who are in early childhood ~~[education]~~ programs.

(c) Identify opportunities for and barriers to coordination and collaboration among early childhood ~~[education]~~ programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, the State or a local government.

(d) Develop recommendations for:

(1) Increasing the participation of children in early childhood ~~[education]~~ programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, the State or a local government, including, without limitation, providing information on such programs to underrepresented and special populations;

(2) The establishment or improvement of core elements of the early childhood system in this State, including, without



limitation, a statewide unified system for collecting data relating to early childhood ~~education~~ programs;

(3) A statewide professional development system for teachers engaged in early childhood education; and

(4) The establishment of statewide standards for early childhood ~~education~~ programs in this State.

(e) Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutions of higher education in this State in developing teachers in the field of early childhood education.

(f) Establish, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, guidelines for evaluating the school readiness of children. The guidelines must:

- (1) Be based on national school readiness indicators;
- (2) Address the following components of school readiness:
 - (I) Physical and developmental health;
 - (II) Social and emotional development;
 - (III) Approaches to learning;
 - (IV) Language and early literacy development; and
 - (V) Cognition and general knowledge.

(g) Develop recommendations for increasing parental involvement and family engagement in early childhood ~~education~~ programs.

(h) Perform such other duties relating to early childhood ~~education~~ programs as designated by the Governor.

~~[3.]~~ **4.** On or before December 1 of each year, the Council shall submit a report to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education, if the report is received during an odd-numbered year, or to the next session of the Legislature, if the report is received during an even-numbered year. The report must include, without limitation, a summary of the activities of the Council and any recommendations for improvements to the early childhood system in this State.

~~[4.]~~ **5.** The Council may accept gifts, grants and donations from any source for the support of the Council in carrying out the provisions of this section.

6. *As used in this section, “early childhood program” means any program for children less than 8 years of age pertaining to:*

- (a) Nutrition;*
- (b) Health care;*
- (c) Mental and behavioral health;*
- (d) Protection; and*



*(e) Play and learning,
↳ to stimulate physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional
development.*

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