
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 23—COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions regarding the procedure to commit an incompetent criminal defendant. (BDR 14-291)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: 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 procedure; revising the procedure for the commitment of certain criminal defendants whom the court finds to be incompetent to the custody of the Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law provides that if a court dismisses the proceedings against a defendant
2 who is charged with any category A felony or certain category B felonies because the
3 court finds that the defendant is incompetent with no substantial probability of
4 attaining competence in the foreseeable future, the prosecuting attorney is authorized
5 to file a motion with the court for a hearing to determine whether to commit the
6 person to the custody of the Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral
7 Health of the Department of Health and Human Services. Existing law requires the
8 hearing to be scheduled within 10 judicial days after the filing of the motion. After the
9 motion is filed, the Division is required to perform a comprehensive risk assessment
10 and provide the assessment to the court, prosecuting attorney and attorney for the
11 defendant at least 3 judicial days before the hearing. (NRS 178.425, 178.461) This bill
12 requires that the Division: (1) complete the comprehensive risk assessment in a
13 reasonable time after the request for the assessment is made; and (2) provide the
14 assessment to the court, the prosecuting attorney and the counsel of the person. This
15 bill requires the court to hold a hearing on the motion within 10 judicial days after
16 receipt of the comprehensive risk assessment by the court.



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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 178.461 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 178.461 1. If the proceedings against a defendant who is
3 charged with any category A felony or a category B felony listed in
4 subsection 6 are dismissed pursuant to subsection 5 of NRS
5 178.425, the prosecuting attorney may, within 10 judicial days after
6 the dismissal, file a motion with the court for a hearing to determine
7 whether to commit the person to the custody of the Administrator
8 pursuant to subsection 3. ~~Except as otherwise provided in~~
9 ~~subsection 2, the court shall hold the hearing within 10 judicial days~~
10 ~~after the motion is filed with the court.~~

11 2. If the prosecuting attorney files a motion pursuant to
12 subsection 1, the prosecuting attorney shall, not later than the date
13 on which the prosecuting attorney files the motion, request from the
14 Division a comprehensive risk assessment which indicates whether
15 the person requires the level of security provided by a forensic
16 facility. The Division shall ~~provide the requested~~ *complete the*
17 *comprehensive risk assessment in a reasonable period after receipt*
18 *of the request and provide the comprehensive risk assessment* to
19 the court, the prosecuting attorney and counsel for the person. ~~not~~
20 ~~later than three~~ *Within 10* judicial days ~~before the hearing.~~ *after*
21 *receipt of the comprehensive risk assessment, the court shall hold*
22 *a hearing on the motion.* If the person was charged with any
23 category A felony other than murder or sexual assault or a category
24 B felony listed in subsection 6 and the comprehensive risk
25 assessment indicates that the person does not require the level of
26 security provided by a forensic facility, the court shall dismiss the
27 motion.

28 3. At a hearing held pursuant to subsection ~~1.~~ *2*, if the court
29 finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person has a mental
30 disorder, that the person is a danger to himself or herself or others
31 and that the person's dangerousness is such that the person requires
32 placement at a forensic facility, the court may order:

33 (a) The sheriff to take the person into protective custody and
34 transport the person to a forensic facility; and

35 (b) That the person be committed to the custody of the
36 Administrator and kept under observation until the person is eligible
37 for conditional release pursuant to NRS 178.463 or until the
38 maximum length of commitment described in subsection 4 or 7 has
39 expired.

40 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, the length of
41 commitment of a person pursuant to subsection 3 must not exceed



1 10 years, including any time that the person has been on conditional
2 release pursuant to NRS 178.463.

3 5. At least once every 12 months, the court shall review the
4 eligibility of the defendant for conditional release.

5 6. The provisions of subsection 1 apply to any of the following
6 category B felonies:

- 7 (a) Voluntary manslaughter pursuant to NRS 200.050;
- 8 (b) Mayhem pursuant to NRS 200.280;
- 9 (c) Kidnapping in the second degree pursuant to NRS 200.330;
- 10 (d) Assault with a deadly weapon pursuant to NRS 200.471;
- 11 (e) Battery with a deadly weapon pursuant to NRS 200.481;
- 12 (f) Aggravated stalking pursuant to NRS 200.575;
- 13 (g) First degree arson pursuant to NRS 205.010;
- 14 (h) Residential burglary with a deadly weapon pursuant to
15 NRS 205.060;
- 16 (i) Invasion of the home with a deadly weapon pursuant to
17 NRS 205.067;
- 18 (j) Any category B felony involving the use of a firearm; and
- 19 (k) Any attempt to commit a category A felony.

20 7. If a person is within 6 months of the maximum length of
21 commitment set forth in this subsection or subsection 4, as
22 applicable, and:

- 23 (a) Was charged with murder or sexual assault; and
- 24 (b) Was committed to the custody of the Administrator pursuant
25 to this subsection or subsection 3,

26 ↪ the Administrator may file a motion to request an extension of
27 the length of commitment for not more than 5 additional years.

28 8. The court may grant a motion for an extension of the length
29 of commitment pursuant to subsection 7 if, at a hearing conducted
30 on the motion, the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that
31 the person is a danger to himself or herself or others and that the
32 person's dangerousness is such that the person requires placement at
33 a forensic facility.

34 9. At a hearing conducted pursuant to subsection 8, a person
35 who is committed has the right to be represented by counsel. If the
36 person does not have counsel, the court shall appoint an attorney to
37 represent the person.

38 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.



