
ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5—ASSEMBLYMEN
ANDERSON, PETERS; CONSIDINE, ORENTLICHER,
SUMMERS-ARMSTRONG, THOMAS AND TOLLES

MARCH 10, 2021

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR RATTI

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint an interim committee to study the behavioral health workforce in this State. (BDR R-105)

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

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to appoint an interim committee to conduct a study concerning the behavioral health workforce in this State.

1 WHEREAS, This State is currently experiencing a shortage of
2 behavioral health professionals; and

3 WHEREAS, This State currently ranks near the bottom in the
4 United States for access to behavioral health care and has relatively
5 high prevalence of mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, The lack of treatment options for behavioral health
7 conditions has a negative impact on patients, the communities in
8 which they live and the quality of living in this State; and

9 WHEREAS, A thorough legislative study of issues relating to the
10 development of the workforce for behavioral health professionals is
11 needed in order to develop solutions to improve access to behavioral
12 health care for the people of this State; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
14 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby
15 directed to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study of
16 strategies and policy options to address the shortage of behavioral
17 health professionals in this State, which is composed of:



1 1. Two voting members nominated by the Majority Leader of
2 the Senate, one of whom must be a member of the Senate Standing
3 Committee on Health and Human Services;

4 2. Two voting members nominated by the Speaker of the
5 Assembly, one of whom must be a member of the Assembly
6 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;

7 3. One voting member nominated by the Minority Leader of
8 the Senate;

9 4. One voting member nominated by the Minority Leader of
10 the Assembly;

11 5. One nonvoting member nominated by the Administrator of
12 the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of
13 Health and Human Services to represent the Division;

14 6. One nonvoting member nominated by the Nevada
15 Counseling Association, or its successor organization, who is a
16 school counselor with experience working in an elementary, middle,
17 junior high or high school; and

18 7. One nonvoting member nominated by the Administrator of
19 the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of
20 Health and Human Services who is a behavioral health professional;
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall designate
23 two of the voting members appointed to the committee to serve as
24 the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the committee; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the committee shall consult with and solicit
27 input and recommendations from persons, entities and organizations
28 with expertise in matters relevant to behavioral health, including,
29 without limitation:

30 1. The Office of Statewide Initiatives of the University of
31 Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine, including, without limitation,
32 the Nevada Office of Rural Health established by NRS 396.906 and
33 the Area Health Education Center Program established by
34 NRS 396.907;

35 2. Institutions of higher education;

36 3. The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology in the
37 Office of the Governor;

38 4. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the
39 Department of Health and Human Services;

40 5. Each regional behavioral health policy board in this State
41 created by NRS 433.429;

42 6. The Board of Psychological Examiners, the Board of
43 Medical Examiners, the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, the
44 Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and
45 Clinical Professional Counselors, the Board of Examiners for Social



1 Workers, the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling
2 Counselors and the Board of Applied Behavior Analysis;

3 7. Behavioral health professionals and facilities that provide
4 behavioral health services, including, without limitation, certified
5 community behavioral health clinics, entities that provide behavioral
6 health services to persons with low incomes and hospitals;

7 8. Professional associations for behavioral health professionals,
8 including, without limitation, the Nevada Chapter of the National
9 Association of Social Workers;

10 9. Nonprofit organizations and other community-based
11 organizations; and

12 10. Representatives of health insurers who have expertise in
13 behavioral health; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That in performing the study, the committee shall:

15 1. Collect and review data relating to behavioral health
16 professionals currently practicing in this State, including, without
17 limitation, demographics and geographic distribution of those
18 behavioral health professionals;

19 2. Collect and review data relating to the provision of
20 behavioral health services using telehealth in this State and consider
21 methods to expand the use of telehealth to supplement current
22 behavioral health services;

23 3. Identify gaps in access to behavioral health services and the
24 types of behavioral health professionals for which the demand for
25 services does not match the supply of those professionals;

26 4. Identify existing initiatives for and barriers to developing an
27 adequate workforce for behavioral health care;

28 5. Evaluate the system of educating behavioral health
29 professionals in this State;

30 6. Identify efforts and opportunities to introduce students in
31 high school, college and graduate school to careers in behavioral
32 health, connect students interested in such a career with resources
33 and mentors and encourage such students to pursue careers in
34 behavioral health, while focusing on students who reside in
35 underserved areas of this State; and

36 7. Consider methods to attract students and professionals in
37 behavioral health to this State and to train and retain those persons;
38 and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
40 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the
41 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to
42 the committee; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission submit a report of
44 the results of the study and any ratified recommendations for
45 legislation to the Legislative Committee on Health Care and the



1 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the
2 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
4 adoption.

