
SENATE BILL NO. 121—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, PARKS, FORD,
DENIS, FARLEY; ATKINSON, CANCELA, CANNIZZARO,
MANENDO, RATTI, SEGERBLOM AND SPEARMAN

PREFILED FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning issues regarding the behavioral and cognitive care needs of older persons. (BDR S-63)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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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 health care; directing the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning issues regarding the behavioral and cognitive care needs of older persons in this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 This bill directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct
2 an interim study concerning issues regarding the behavioral and cognitive care
3 needs of older persons in this State.

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

1 **Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:
2 1. Older persons, including those with behavioral and cognitive
3 health issues, are among the most treasured and vulnerable assets of
4 this State.
5 2. The proportion of the population of the United States and of
6 this State that consists of older persons continues to grow.
7 3. As the proportion of our population grows to consist
8 increasingly of older persons, information and knowledge pertaining



1 to behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons
2 becomes ever more crucial.

3 4. At present, many of the persons who care for older persons
4 with behavioral and cognitive health issues are unable to readily
5 obtain the information and training necessary to care for their loved
6 ones in the most beneficial manner.

7 5. It is increasingly more important to identify gifts, grants,
8 programs and other sources of money that may be used for the
9 benefit of older persons in this State with behavioral and cognitive
10 health issues.

11 6. It is progressively more imperative that natural persons,
12 agencies and other resources within this State be knowledgeable and
13 aware concerning behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in
14 older persons.

15 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a
16 committee to conduct an interim study concerning the needs related
17 to the behavioral and cognitive care of older persons in this State.

18 2. The interim committee appointed by the Legislative
19 Commission to conduct the study must be composed of six
20 Legislators as follows:

21 (a) Two members appointed by the Majority Leader of the
22 Senate;

23 (b) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly;

24 (c) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
25 Senate; and

26 (d) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
27 Assembly.

28 3. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a Chair and a
29 Vice Chair from among the members of the interim committee.

30 4. In conducting the study, the interim committee shall consult
31 with and solicit input from natural persons and organizations with
32 expertise in matters relevant to the behavioral and cognitive care of
33 older persons in this State, including, without limitation:

34 (a) An employee or other person selected or otherwise
35 designated by the Administrator of the Division of Public and
36 Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human
37 Services.

38 (b) A representative from an association that provides services
39 to persons with Alzheimer's disease.

40 (c) A medical professional with expertise in cognitive disorders.

41 (d) A representative of the Nevada System of Higher Education
42 with expertise in cognitive disorders.

43 (e) A representative from a nonprofit community agency that
44 provides caregiver support and services to older persons in this State
45 with behavioral or cognitive health issues.



1 (f) The Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services
2 Division of the Department of Health and Human Services or other
3 person from the Division designated by the Administrator.

4 5. The interim committee shall examine, research and identify:

5 (a) Potential sources of state funding available to support
6 evidence-based statewide community programs to aid caregivers
7 who are caring for older persons with behavioral and cognitive
8 health issues, including, without limitation:

9 (1) Offering information about programs and services
10 designed to aid caregivers who are caring for older persons with
11 behavioral and cognitive health issues;

12 (2) The provision of training in select evidence-based
13 community programs for caregivers, social service providers, health
14 care workers and family members;

15 (3) The creation of a sliding fee scale to address the
16 affordability of mental health services;

17 (4) Providing a substitute caregiver to ensure the safety and
18 well-being of an older person who has behavioral or cognitive
19 health issues while the family attends training; and

20 (5) The creation of a sliding fee scale to address the
21 affordability of respite services;

22 (b) Potential sources of state funding to assist Nevada Care
23 Connection and Nevada 2-1-1 in the creation of a "No Wrong Door"
24 program to assist caregivers of older persons with behavioral and
25 cognitive health issues;

26 (c) The potential for establishing a higher rate of reimbursement
27 by Medicaid for nursing facilities prepared and trained to support
28 older persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues, thereby
29 allowing such older persons to remain in their own communities
30 rather than being placed in out-of-state facilities; and

31 (d) The provision of education and training for health care
32 professionals in the screening, diagnosis and treatment of behavioral
33 and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons.

34 6. The Legislative Commission shall submit a report of the
35 results of the study and any recommendations for legislation to the
36 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to
37 the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

38 **Sec. 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall
39 provide technical assistance to the interim committee appointed
40 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

41 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.



