

Senate Bill No. 121—Senators Woodhouse, Parks, Ford, Denis, Farley; Atkinson, Cancela, Cannizzaro, Manendo, Ratti, Segerblom and Spearman

CHAPTER.....

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:**

This bill 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 in this State.

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

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

**Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. Older persons, including those with behavioral and cognitive health issues, are among the most treasured and vulnerable assets of this State.
2. The proportion of the population of the United States and of this State that consists of older persons continues to grow.
3. As the proportion of our population grows to consist increasingly of older persons, information and knowledge pertaining to behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons becomes ever more crucial.
4. At present, many of the persons who care for older persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues are unable to readily obtain the information and training necessary to care for their loved ones in the most beneficial manner.
5. It is increasingly more important to identify gifts, grants, programs and other sources of money that may be used for the benefit of older persons in this State with behavioral and cognitive health issues.
6. It is progressively more imperative that natural persons, agencies and other resources within this State be knowledgeable and aware concerning behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) A medical professional with expertise in cognitive disorders, including without limitation, a neurologist, gerontologist, geropsychiatrist or geropsychologist.

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

(e) A representative from a nonprofit community agency that provides caregiver support and services to older persons in this State with behavioral or cognitive health issues, including without limitation, a representative with experience or knowledge of suicide awareness, education and prevention as it relates to suicide among older persons.

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

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

(a) Potential sources of state funding available to support evidence-based statewide community programs to aid caregivers



who are caring for older persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues, including, without limitation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



