
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 145—ASSEMBLYMEMBERS D’SILVA AND GRAY

PREFILED JANUARY 29, 2025

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS CRUZ-CRAWFORD AND LANGE

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to veterans.
(BDR 37-77)

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 veterans; prohibiting a person from providing certain services related to veterans’ benefits under certain circumstances; prohibiting the Director of the Department of Veterans Services from charging a fee for the interment of the spouse of a veteran; requiring the Division of Human Resource Management of the Department of Administration to develop certain programs for the hiring and mentoring of veterans; requiring the Administrator of the Division to employ a Veterans Coordinator; revising the persons who are eligible to receive, free of charge, an annual permit for entering all state parks and recreational areas to include the family members of certain veterans; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing federal law prohibits a person from acting as an agent or attorney in
2 the preparation, presentation or prosecution of certain claims relating to benefits
3 provided to veterans and certain family members of veterans, unless the person has
4 been recognized or accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
5 (38 U.S.C. § 5901; 38 C.F.R. § 14.629(b)) **Section 1** of this bill prohibits a person
6 from preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting or assisting any other
7 person with a claim before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the
8 United States Department of Defense or the Nevada Department of Veterans
9 Services in violation of federal law, unless the person has received such recognition



10 or accreditation. **Section 2** of this bill makes the civil penalty for a violation of
11 existing law governing services for veterans' benefits apply to a person who
12 violates **section 1**. **Sections 2 and 10** of this bill authorize a person who is
13 aggrieved by a violation of **section 1** to bring an action for consumer fraud.

14 Existing law requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to
15 establish, operate and maintain veterans' cemeteries in this State. (NRS 417.090)
16 Existing law further requires the Director to charge a fee for the interment of a
17 family member of a veteran who is eligible for interment in a veterans' cemetery in
18 this State. (NRS 417.210) **Section 3** of this bill prohibits the Director from charging
19 a fee for the interment of the spouse of a veteran.

20 **Section 11** of this bill requires the Administrator of the Division of Human
21 Resource Management of the Department of Administration to employ a Veterans
22 Coordinator and requires the Veterans Coordinator to supervise the veteran hiring
23 program and the peer mentor program established in **sections 8 and 9** of this bill,
24 respectively. **Section 7** of this bill defines the term Veterans Coordinator for the
25 purposes of **sections 5-9** of this bill.

26 **Section 8** requires the Division of Human Resource Management, under the
27 supervision of the Veterans Coordinator, to establish a veteran hiring program to
28 support the recruitment and retention of employees who are veterans or the spouses
29 of veterans or servicemembers. **Section 8** further establishes certain requirements
30 for the program and requires the Veterans Coordinator to provide to the Interagency
31 Council on Veterans Affairs an annual report regarding the progress of the veteran
32 hiring program.

33 In 2019, the Governor established by executive order a peer mentor program
34 for veterans. The executive order required the Division of Human Resource
35 Management, under the supervision of the Veterans Coordinator, to develop a peer
36 mentor program for certain veterans. The executive order further required each
37 state agency that employs a veteran to identify one employee to serve as a peer
38 mentor. Additionally, the Veterans Coordinator is required to provide an annual
39 report regarding the progress of the peer mentor program to the Interagency
40 Council on Veterans Affairs. (Executive Order 2019-05 (3-20-2019)) **Section 9**
41 codifies the requirements for the peer mentor program in statute.

42 Existing law requires the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the
43 State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to establish a program to
44 issue, free of charge, an annual permit to enter all state parks and recreational areas
45 in this State to any bona fide resident of this State who has been discharged, except
46 a person who has been dishonorably discharged, from the Armed Forces of the
47 United States. (NRS 407.0655) **Section 12** of this bill requires the program to
48 include the issuance of such annual permits to the widow, widower, parent or adult
49 child of a person killed in the line of duty while serving on active duty in the
50 Armed Forces of the United States.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *A person shall not prepare, present, prosecute, advise, consult*
4 *or assist any other person with a claim before the United States*
5 *Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States Department of*
6 *Defense or the Department in violation of 38 U.S.C. § 5901 or 38*
7 *C.F.R. § 14.629 unless the person has been recognized or*



1 *accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to*
2 *perform such activities.*

3 **Sec. 2.** NRS 417.137 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 417.137 1. The Attorney General may recover a civil penalty
5 of not more than \$10,000 for each violation of NRS 417.133 or
6 417.135 ~~or~~ *or section 1 of this act.* The Attorney General shall
7 deposit any civil penalty recovered pursuant to this section in the
8 Gift Account for Veterans created by NRS 417.115.

9 2. A person aggrieved by a violation of NRS 417.133 or
10 417.135 *or section 1 of this act* may bring an action for consumer
11 fraud pursuant to NRS 41.600.

12 **Sec. 3.** NRS 417.210 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 417.210 1. A veteran who is eligible for interment in a
14 national cemetery pursuant to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. § 2402 is
15 eligible for interment in a veterans' cemetery in this State.

16 2. An eligible veteran, or a member of his or her immediate
17 family, or a veterans' organization recognized by the Director may
18 apply for a plot in a cemetery for veterans in this State by submitting
19 a request to the cemetery superintendent on a form to be supplied by
20 the cemetery superintendent. The application for interment must
21 provide for a selection to have the area immediately above and
22 surrounding the interred remains of the applicant landscaped with
23 natural grass or xeriscaping. The cemetery superintendent shall
24 assign available plots in the order in which applications are
25 received. A specific plot may not be reserved before it is needed for
26 burial. No charge may be made for a plot or for the interment of a
27 veteran.

28 3. One plot is allowed for the interment of each eligible veteran
29 and for each member of his or her immediate family, except where
30 the conditions of the soil or the number of the decedents of the
31 family requires more than one plot.

32 4. ~~The~~ *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the*
33 *Director shall charge a fee for the interment of a family member, but*
34 *the fee may not exceed the actual cost of interment. The Director*
35 *shall not charge a fee for the interment of the spouse of a veteran.*

36 5. As used in this section, "immediate family" means the
37 spouse, minor child or, when the Director deems appropriate, the
38 unmarried adult child of an eligible veteran.

39 **Sec. 4.** Chapter 418 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
40 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 5 to 9, inclusive, of this
41 act.

42 **Sec. 5.** *As used in NRS 418.030 and 418.045 and sections 5*
43 *to 9, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires,*
44 *the words and terms defined in sections 6 and 7 of this act, have*
45 *the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.*



1 **Sec. 6.** *“Servicemember” means a person who is an active*
2 *member of the:*

3 1. *Armed Forces of the United States;*

4 2. *National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed*
5 *Forces of the United States; or*

6 3. *Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health*
7 *Service or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and*
8 *Atmospheric Administration of the United States and is serving in*
9 *the capacity of a commissioned officer in defense of the United*
10 *States.*

11 **Sec. 7.** *“Veterans Coordinator” means the Veterans*
12 *Coordinator in the Division of Human Resource Management of*
13 *the Department of Administration employed by the Administrator*
14 *of the Division pursuant to section II of this act.*

15 **Sec. 8.** 1. *Under the supervision of the Veterans*
16 *Coordinator, the Division of Human Resource Management of the*
17 *Department of Administration shall establish a veteran hiring*
18 *program to support the recruitment and retention of employees*
19 *who are veterans or the spouses of veterans or servicemembers.*

20 2. *The program must:*

21 (a) *Identify positions in the service of the State that align with*
22 *the education, skills and experience of a qualifying person;*

23 (b) *Advise and assist a qualifying person with the completion*
24 *of profiles and job applications; and*

25 (c) *Provide guidance to a qualifying person throughout the*
26 *application and hiring process.*

27 3. *On or before November 30 of each year, the Veterans*
28 *Coordinator shall submit to the Interagency Council on Veterans*
29 *Affairs a report concerning the progress of the program.*

30 4. *As used in this section, “qualifying person” means a*
31 *person who is a veteran or the spouse of a veteran or*
32 *servicemember.*

33 **Sec. 9.** 1. *Under the supervision of the Veterans*
34 *Coordinator, the Division of Human Resource Management of the*
35 *Department of Administration shall establish a peer mentor*
36 *program to support mentoring, professional development and*
37 *networking opportunities for veterans who are employed by the*
38 *State.*

39 2. *The peer mentor program must:*

40 (a) *Improve the recruitment of veterans through outreach and*
41 *raising awareness of career opportunities with state agencies;*

42 (b) *Improve the retention of veterans by providing support,*
43 *mentorship and professional development opportunities;*

44 (c) *Improve employee morale through veteran recognition*
45 *events and activities; and*



1 *(d) Include quarterly meetings which are open to all employees*
2 *of the State, to provide information related to veteran resources,*
3 *veteran services or any other information the Veterans*
4 *Coordinator or the Division of Human Resource Management*
5 *deems necessary.*

6 *3. The Division of Human Resource Management shall*
7 *coordinate with the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs to*
8 *encourage employers in this State to establish peer mentor*
9 *programs for veterans within their organizations.*

10 *4. Each state agency that employs a veteran shall coordinate*
11 *with the Veterans Coordinator to identify at least one employee to*
12 *serve as a peer mentor for veterans and participate in the peer*
13 *mentor program. A peer mentor is not required to have prior*
14 *military service or entitled to receive additional compensation for*
15 *servng as a peer mentor.*

16 *5. On or before November 30 of each year, the Veterans*
17 *Coordinator shall submit to the Interagency Council on Veterans*
18 *Affairs a report concerning the progress of the program.*

19 **Sec. 10.** NRS 41.600 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 41.600 1. An action may be brought by any person who is a
21 victim of consumer fraud.

22 2. As used in this section, "consumer fraud" means:

23 (a) An unlawful act as defined in NRS 119.330;

24 (b) An unlawful act as defined in NRS 205.2747;

25 (c) An act prohibited by NRS 482.36655 to 482.36667,
26 inclusive;

27 (d) An act prohibited by NRS 482.351;

28 (e) A deceptive trade practice as defined in NRS 598.0915 to
29 598.0925, inclusive; or

30 (f) A violation of NRS 417.133 or 417.135 **Ⓡ** *or section 1 of*
31 *this act.*

32 3. If the claimant is the prevailing party, the court shall award
33 the claimant:

34 (a) Any damages that the claimant has sustained;

35 (b) Any equitable relief that the court deems appropriate; and

36 (c) The claimant's costs in the action and reasonable attorney's
37 fees.

38 4. Any action brought pursuant to this section is not an action
39 upon any contract underlying the original transaction.

40 **Sec. 11.** Chapter 284 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
41 thereto a new section to read as follows:

42 *1. The Administrator of the Division shall employ a Veterans*
43 *Coordinator who is in the classified service of the State.*

44 *2. The Veterans Coordinator employed pursuant to*
45 *subsection 1 shall supervise:*



1 (a) *The veteran hiring program established pursuant to section*
2 *8 of this act;*

3 (b) *The peer mentor program established pursuant to section 9*
4 *of this act; and*

5 (c) *Any other programs or initiatives of the Division that*
6 *support the recruitment and retention of employees who are*
7 *veterans or the spouses of veterans or servicemembers.*

8 3. *As used in this section, "servicemember" has the meaning*
9 *ascribed to it in section 6 of this act.*

10 **Sec. 12.** NRS 407.0655 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 407.0655 The Administrator shall establish a program for the
12 issuance of an annual permit, free of charge, to enter each state park
13 and recreation area in this State to:

14 1. Any member of an Indian tribe that is located in whole or in
15 part in this State; ~~and~~

16 2. Any bona fide resident of this State who has been discharged
17 from the Armed Forces of the United States, except a person who
18 has been dishonorably discharged ~~and~~; and

19 3. *Any bona fide resident of this State who is the widow,*
20 *widower, parent or adult child of a person killed in the line of duty*
21 *while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.*

22 **Sec. 13.** Any person who, on October 1, 2025, is employed by
23 the Division of Human Resources Management in the Department
24 of Administration as the Veterans Coordinator and is otherwise
25 qualified to serve as the Veterans Coordinator may continue to serve
26 in that capacity and may only be transferred, promoted, demoted or
27 discharged in accordance with the provisions of chapter 284 of the
28 Nevada Revised Statutes.



