

SENATE BILL NO. 269—SENATORS WOODHOUSE, FORD, ATKINSON,
SPEARMAN, PARKS; DENIS, KIHUEN, MANENDO AND SEGERBLOM

MARCH 13, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN JOINER; AND ARAUJO

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Establishes an interim study committee to research issues regarding the behavioral health and cognitive care of older persons. (BDR S-1035)

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; establishing an interim study committee to research issues regarding the behavioral and cognitive care of older persons; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 This bill establishes an interim study committee to research: (1) potential
2 sources of state funding to support programs to aid caregivers that are providing
3 care to older persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues; (2) potential
4 sources of funding to assist Nevada’s Care Connection and Nevada 2-1-1 in
5 creating a “No Wrong Door” program to assist caregivers of older adults with
6 behavioral and cognitive health issues; (3) the potential for establishing a higher
7 rate of reimbursement by Medicaid for nursing facilities prepared and trained to
8 support older persons with behavioral and cognitive needs; and (4) the provision of
9 education and training for health care professionals in the screening, diagnosis and
10 treatment of behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons. This bill
11 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide administrative
12 and technical assistance to the committee.



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 with behavioral and cognitive health issues
3 are among the most treasured and vulnerable assets of this State.

4 2. The proportion of the population of the United States and of
5 the State of Nevada that consists of older persons continues to grow.

6 3. As the proportion of our population grows to consist
7 increasingly of older persons, information and knowledge pertaining
8 to behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in older persons
9 becomes ever more crucial.

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

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

18 6. It is progressively more imperative that natural persons,
19 agencies and other resources within this State be knowledgeable and
20 aware concerning behavioral and cognitive diseases prevalent in
21 older persons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 3. The committee shall consult with and solicit input from
36 natural persons and organizations with expertise in matters relevant
37 to the behavioral and cognitive care of older persons in this State,
38 including, without limitation:

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



1 (b) The Chair of the Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness
2 Council, created by the Governor by executive order on
3 December 13, 2013.

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

6 (d) A medical professional with expertise in cognitive disorders.

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

9 (f) A representative from a nonprofit community agency that
10 provides caregiver support and services to older Nevadans with
11 behavioral health or cognitive issues.

12 (g) The Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services
13 Division or other person from the Division designated by the
14 Administrator.

15 4. The Legislative Commission shall appoint a Chair and a
16 Vice Chair from among the members of the committee.

17 5. The members of the committee serve terms of 2 years,
18 beginning as soon as practicable on or after July 1, 2015, and ending
19 on June 30, 2017. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the
20 committee must be filled in the same manner as the original
21 appointment not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

22 6. The committee shall meet at least twice each year and may
23 meet at such further times as deemed necessary by the Chair.

24 7. A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a
25 quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of those
26 members present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action
27 taken by the committee.

28 8. For each day or portion of a day during which a member of
29 the committee attends a meeting of the committee or is otherwise
30 engaged in the business of the committee, except during a regular or
31 special session of the Legislature, the member is entitled to receive
32 the:

33 (a) Compensation provided for a majority of the members of the
34 Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session;

35 (b) Per diem allowance provided for state officers generally; and

36 (c) Travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218A.655.

37 ➤ The compensation, per diem allowances and travel expenses of
38 the members of the committee must be paid from the Legislative
39 Fund.

40 9. The committee shall research:

41 (a) Potential sources of state funding available to support
42 evidence-based statewide community programs to aid caregivers
43 that are caring for older persons with behavioral and cognitive
44 health issues. Such funding may be utilized for:



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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) Potential sources of state funding to assist Nevada's Care
15 Connection and Nevada 2-1-1 in the creation of a "No Wrong Door"
16 program to assist caregivers of older persons with behavioral and
17 cognitive health issues;

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

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

26 10. The committee shall submit a report of its findings,
27 including, without limitation, any recommendations for legislation,
28 to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to
29 the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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

33 **Sec. 4.** The provisions of section 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not
34 apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
35 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

36 **Sec. 5.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

