

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

*Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.750*

This summary presents recommendations approved by the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs at its final work session meeting on August 15, 2014. The bill draft requests (BDRs) will be submitted to the 78th Legislative Session for its consideration in 2015.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

1. Draft a bill to require the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in its application process for Jobs and Day Training providers, to give preference to applicants who employ persons with disabilities at or above minimum wage. **(BDR 39–416)**
2. Draft a bill to improve resident care in skilled nursing facilities by:
  - a. Establishing staffing ratios in skilled nursing facilities of 4.1 hours of direct care per resident, comprising 2.8 hours for certified nursing assistants and 1.3 hours for licensed staff, as recommended by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care; and
  - b. Establishing a maximum time of 20 minutes by which staff of a nursing facility must respond to a resident's request for assistance through the use of a call light. **(BDR –417)**
3. Draft a bill to create a Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This form would be different from the Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions form set forth in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 162A.860. The new form would enable adults over 18 years of age with intellectual or developmental disabilities to receive assistance in making medical decisions. **(BDR 13–418)**
4. Draft a bill to broaden the scope of the Program to Provide Devices for Telecommunication to Persons With Impaired Speech or Hearing by amending the statutes (primarily Chapter 427A [“Services to Aging Persons and Persons With Disabilities”] of NRS) to include assistance services and a nonexclusive list of activities in which the service centers may engage. **(BDR 38–419)**
5. Draft a bill to establish an advisory board to assist the ADSD in the oversight of interpreters as set forth in Chapter 656A (“Interpreters and Realtime Captioning Providers”) of NRS. **(BDR 54–420)**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE LETTERS**

6. Send a letter to the Governor, the DHHS, the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), and the Department of Education in support of Executive Order 2014-16, “Establishing the Governor’s Taskforce on Integrated Employment,” for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
7. Send a letter to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means in support of the request for seven new positions in the Rehabilitation Division, DETR, budget for Fiscal Year 2016–2017.
8. Send a letter to the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means in support of maintaining efforts by the Rehabilitation Division, DETR, to maximize federal funding for integrated employment.
9. Send a letter to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means in support of increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate for providers of Jobs and Day Training in the *Executive Budget* for the 2015–2017 Biennium.
10. Send a letter to the DHHS in support of additional positions within the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, for the purpose of conducting inspections at medical and other related facilities.
11. Send a letter to the DHHS in support of increased funding for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in the *Executive Budget* for the 2015–2017 Biennium.
12. Send a letter to the DHHS in support of an ADSD budget request to update the strategic plans for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, including a revised Nevada *Olmstead* plan, in the *Executive Budget* for the 2015–2017 Biennium.
13. Send a letter to the Governor, the DHHS, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means in support of increased funding of approximately \$500,000 for independent living services in the ADSD budget for the 2015–2017 Biennium.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEMENTS IN THE FINAL REPORT**

14. Include a statement in the final report in support of legislation similar to the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act.