

SENATE BILL NO. 274—SENATORS HORSFORD,
PARKS, WIENER AND COPENING

MARCH 16, 2009

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Creates an interdisciplinary committee to address issues relating to the juvenile justice system. (BDR S-627)

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

~

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

AN ACT relating to juvenile justice; creating an interdisciplinary committee to address issues relating to the juvenile justice system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 **Section 1** of this bill provides for the creation of an interdisciplinary committee
2 consisting of various persons involved in the juvenile justice system to hold
3 meetings to discuss issues relating to the juvenile justice system and to develop
4 recommendations for improvements to the juvenile justice system. **Section 2** of this
5 bill requires the committee to meet at least quarterly and at the end of the 2009
6 biennium to prepare a comprehensive report outlining the work of the committee,
7 including recommendations for submission to the Governor and the Legislature.

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

1 **Section 1.** 1. The Interdisciplinary Committee on Vulnerable
2 Youth is hereby created. The Committee consists of:
3 (a) One member who is a district judge, appointed by the
4 governing body of the Nevada District Judges Association;
5 (b) One member who is a district attorney, appointed by the
6 governing body of the Nevada District Attorneys Association;
7 (c) One member who is a public defender, appointed by the
8 governing body of the State Bar of Nevada;



- 1 (d) One member who is a representative of a law enforcement
2 agency, appointed by the Governor;
 - 3 (e) Three members appointed by the Director of the Department
4 of Health and Human Services;
 - 5 (f) Two members appointed by the Department of Education;
 - 6 (g) The Chief Probation Officer appointed pursuant to NRS
7 62G.050, or his designee;
 - 8 (h) The Director of Juvenile Services appointed pursuant to
9 NRS 62G.130, or his designee;
 - 10 (i) The Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services
11 appointed pursuant to NRS 62G.330 or pursuant to NRS 62G.200 to
12 62G.240, inclusive, or his designee;
 - 13 (j) The Director of the Department of Family Services for Clark
14 County, or his designee;
 - 15 (k) The Director of the Department of Social Services for
16 Washoe County, or his designee; and
 - 17 (l) One Legislator appointed by the Legislative Commission.
- 18 2. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Committee
19 must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
 - 20 3. The Legislator appointed to the Committee is entitled to
21 receive the salary provided for a majority of the members of the
22 Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding session for each
23 day's attendance at a meeting of the Committee.
 - 24 4. At the first meeting of the Committee, the members shall
25 elect a Chairman by majority vote and may elect a Vice Chairman.
 - 26 5. A majority of the members of the Committee constitutes a
27 quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of those
28 members present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action
29 taken by the Commission.
 - 30 6. The Legislative Counsel Bureau shall provide the
31 Committee with such staff as is necessary to carry out the duties of
32 the Committee.
- 33 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Interdisciplinary Committee on Vulnerable
34 Youth shall meet at least quarterly to consider issues relating to:
- 35 (a) Best practices in the juvenile justice system;
 - 36 (b) Actions that have the most impact on reducing recidivism of
37 juveniles and the possibility that a child in the juvenile justice
38 system will spend time in prison as an adult;
 - 39 (c) Certification of juveniles as adults;
 - 40 (d) Transfer of juveniles to the adult criminal justice system;
 - 41 (e) Programs that are available or which are needed to assist
42 juveniles, including, without limitation, programs to address
43 sexually exploited children;
 - 44 (f) Racial disparity in the juvenile justice system;



1 (g) The collection of data concerning juveniles in the juvenile
2 justice system; and

3 (h) Other issues concerning youthful offenders and children
4 involved in the juvenile justice system.

5 2. The Committee shall evaluate the issues, identify any
6 problems in the juvenile justice system in this State and develop
7 recommendations to resolve any such problems or improve the
8 system.

9 3. On or before January 15, 2011, the Committee shall prepare
10 a comprehensive report outlining the work of the Committee,
11 including any recommendations. The report must be submitted to
12 the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau
13 for distribution to the Legislature.

14 **Sec. 3.** The appointments to the Committee required pursuant
15 to section 1 of this act must be made as soon as possible after the
16 effective date of this act, but not later than August 1, 2009.

17 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval
18 and expires by limitation on January 15, 2011.

