

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218E.705

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice at its meeting on August 24, 2018. The bill draft requests (BDRs) will be forwarded to the Legislative Commission for transmittal to the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

Juvenile Detention

1. Draft legislation requesting an interim study of juvenile detention in Nevada to be conducted by the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. The study is to include research on utilizing a regional approach to housing children locally, as well as other issues regarding placement of children, including bed space, educational and wellness programming, family and community contact, and other relevant information. **(BDR S-450)**

Funding of Child Welfare Programs

2. Draft legislation requesting an appropriation of \$250,000 to conduct an independent interim study of funding within Nevada's child welfare system to include a cost-benefit analysis of replacing the Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) system. The Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice will oversee the study. **(BDR S-451)**

Resources for Fictive Kin

3. Draft legislation to amend [Chapter 422A](#) of NRS to provide that, to the extent authorized by federal law, the director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is required to include in the state plan for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families provisions for the payment of child-only assistance to a fictive kin caregiver. **(BDR 38-452)**

Independent Living Stipends for Foster Youth

4. Draft legislation to provide children who are adopted before 18 years of age the same financial assistance that is provided pursuant to [NRS 432B.591 through 432B.595](#) to children who remain under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court at 18 years of age and who elect to remain under the jurisdiction of the court after 18 years of age. **(BDR 38-453)**

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

5. Draft legislation creating a new Chapter 432C of NRS to ensure compliance with the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010 and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2013 and to comply with the Program Improvement Plan as required by the Administration for Children and Families of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. **(BDR 38–457)**

Foster Youth Education

6. Draft legislation to require that:
 - a. All foster youth have an identified educational decision maker;
 - b. An academic learning plan be attached to foster youth court reports;
 - c. Court reports include a foster youth's educational information; and
 - d. The Legislature create a funding mechanism for foster youth entering secondary education. **(BDR 40–458)**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

7. Send a letter urging Nevada's Department of Corrections to pursue memorandums of understanding with appropriate local or state entities to allow female juvenile offenders to be housed in local rather than out-of-state facilities or the Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center.
8. Send a letter to the governor, the Senate Committee on Finance, the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, and the DHHS urging that state and local child welfare agencies fund the full cost of child care for foster children at the current market rate.
9. Send a letter to the governor, the Senate Committee on Finance, the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, the DHHS, and the Administrative Office of the Courts supporting the creation of a waiver program to defray the costs of juvenile justice involvement for families with limited resources. The letter is to include a request that relevant entities provide information on any cost waiver programs already in place in order to facilitate a best practices assessment and create uniformity in the future.
10. Send a letter to the governor, the Senate Committee on Finance, the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, Nevada's Department of Education, and the DHHS urging the establishment of an independent auditor to review complaints and grievances submitted by youth involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. The letter is also to urge that the relevant agencies determine the feasibility of establishing the complaint system to function in coordination with the SafeVoice system that is currently available to all students, faculty, and parents in Nevada.

11. Send a letter to the governor, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means urging that they support and adequately fund the priorities of the Nevada Children's Behavioral Health Consortiums as outlined by the Consortiums in a presentation to the Committee.
12. Send a letter to the Legislative Commission requesting that the Commission direct the legislative auditor to conduct an audit of the results of the family-to-family peer support pilot project authorized under [Assembly Bill 307](#) (2015) to assist youths in Clark County who are at risk of long-term residential treatment.
13. Send a letter to the governor, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means urging that they support and fully fund programs for specialized foster care.