

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

NEVADA SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 427A.320

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum at its meeting on August 7, 2024. The bill draft request (BDR) will be forwarded to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RECOMMENDATION FOR LEGISLATION

Increased Protections for Seniors Against Physical and Financial Harm

1. Propose legislation to:

- a. Increase the maximum term of imprisonment from 15 to 20 years as penalty for home invasion ([NRS 205.067](#)) that results in the injury or death of a Nevadan 60 years of age or older, which would be in addition to the enhancement prescribed in [NRS 193.167](#); and
- b. Expand the categories of the list of crimes committed against persons 60 years of age or older punishable by law in [NRS 193.167](#) to include:
 - i. Theft;
 - ii. General fraud; and
 - iii. Violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act set forth in [Chapter 598](#) of NRS. (BDR –)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

Addressing Food Insecurity Among Seniors

2. Send letters to the Governor, the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Health and Human Services, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Director of the State Department of Agriculture (NDA) expressing the Forum's support of efforts to reduce food insecurity of senior citizens in Nevada by:
 - a. Encouraging the Director of DHHS to seek all federal authority to:
 - i. Reduce the number of verification requirements for Nevadans 60 years of age or older in certifying and recertifying eligibility to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;

- ii. Provide applicants 60 years of age or older with a simplified version of the SNAP application in large print; and
- iii. Allow telephone enrollment for SNAP benefits to applicants 60 years of age and older; and
- b. Urging legislation to revise the definition of “food bank” in subsection 7(b) of [NRS 561.515](#) to mean a food bank or other organization that is a member of the Feeding America network or any other nonprofit organization in Nevada providing food services to individuals in need, as determined by the Director of NDA, in an effort to give NDA greater flexibility in the number and types of organizations that may receive food distributions from the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program.

Prevention of Age Discrimination in Hiring Process

- 3. Send letters to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission; the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation; and the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Commerce and Labor expressing the Forum’s support for decreasing discrimination against Nevadans 60 years of age or older in the workplace. Specifically, the letter should encourage them to support efforts to remove questions about age or date of birth from employment applications. Additionally, the letter should highlight that at least six other states have enacted legislation in recent years which prevents employers from asking a prospective employee’s age or date of birth.

Increased Reimbursement Rate for Home-Delivered Meals

- 4. Send letters to the Director of DHHS, the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), DHHS; the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS; and the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Health and Human Services to express the Forum’s appreciation and support of the recent implementation of a reimbursement rate increase for the home-delivered meals program through Home- and Community-Based Services and encourage these entities to bolster State efforts that reduce food insecurity for low-income seniors who are homebound.

Basic Geriatric Training for All Health Care Fields

- 5. Send letters to the Nevada System of Higher Education and the Sanford Center for Aging, University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine, expressing the Forum’s support to include courses in basic geriatric care for all health care training programs in Nevada. The letter should explain there is a growing deficit in geriatricians providing care for older adults, and this deficit will only grow as the population continues to age. This means all clinicians, especially family medicine and general practitioners, will be providing the bulk of care for older adults. This letter will serve as a call to action to improve care for older adults in Nevada and our future selves, ensuring trainees are prepared to care and advocate for this diverse and often vulnerable population.

Improved Access to Secure and Stable Housing for Seniors in Nevada

6. Send letters to the Governor; Nevada's Housing Division, Department of Business and Industry; the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, DHHS; and the Nevada Association of Counties expressing the Forum's support of greater coordination of State agencies and consolidated efforts to address the growing need for safe, secure, and stable housing for Nevada seniors. The letter will also include a recommendation to establish a multiyear Rent Stabilization Fund.

Support for Recreational Programs for Seniors

7. Send letters to ADSD, DHHS; the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, DHHS; and Nevada's Division of Outdoor Recreation, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, expressing the Forum's support for greater collaboration in creating recreational programs for seniors, especially for those with neurodegenerative disorders. The letters should highlight that older adults reap many rewards from physical activity, including the ability to live independently longer, have a better quality of life, and require less medical care. The letters will also include a recommendation for efforts to create a resource listing of entities that offer such recreational programs for seniors.