



## **Nevada Association of Counties (NACO)**

### **Proposed Amendment to Senate Bill 41**

**Contact:** Vinson Guthreau, Executive Director, NACO

[vguthreau@nvnaco.org](mailto:vguthreau@nvnaco.org)

(775) 527-4888

#### **Intent:**

- Revise the proposed reporting structure for Clark and Washoe counties by aligning the counties' identification of goals and reporting of outcomes to the agency annual plan submitted each year. This will help to streamline workload for both the counties and the State while still providing for accountability and oversight. This is submitted as a conceptual amendment in Part 1 below.
- Added additional items to be included in the Study, including any technological needs for the State's centralized information system (UNITY), cost of living and other economic factors, the impact of case complexity and workload, outdated IV-E income limits and any other item identified by the agencies, including but not limited to, the youth served by both the juvenile justice and child welfare settings. This is submitted in Part 2 below.

#### **Part 1: Conceptual Amendment to Sections 1-4 of Senate Bill 41:**

- Revise bill to instead amend NRS 432B.216 to:
  - Provide authority for the State to administer the grant funding previously referred to as the incentive grant instead as a categorical annual grant.
  - Revise to make this an annual process and aligned on the state fiscal year instead of the calendar year.
  - Administration of the funds would be triggered by the submission by Clark and Washoe of the annual agency improvement plan already provided under the statute (change from biennial to annual)

- The reporting would be annual, so agencies would get funding in year one, and then report outcomes on the goals for accountability to that plan; and concurrently would submit a new plan to access funding in year two of the biennium.
- Conforming change to NRS 432B.218 to change the State’s reporting to the Governor and the Legislature on the progress made by each agency.
  - We propose to change the timeline of this report from year end to 60 days after the submission of the agency improvement plans.
- Conforming changes reflecting the above may be needed throughout the remaining sections of the bill.

**Part 2: Proposed Amendment to Section 5 of Senate Bill 41**

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) variations of **green bold underlining** is language proposed to be added in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill proposed to be retained in this amendment.

1       **Sec. 5.** 1. During the 2023-2024 interim, the Joint Interim  
2 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services shall study:

3       (a) Issues related to the funding of agencies which provide child  
4 welfare services in this State, including, without limitation:

5           (1) The history of unfunded mandates imposed by the  
6 Legislature and the Federal Government upon agencies which  
7 provide child welfare services in this State and the impact of  
8 unfunded mandates on the child welfare system; and

9           (2) The impact of any reductions in federal funding of the  
10 agencies which provide child welfare services in this State on the  
11 ability of those agencies which provide child welfare services to  
12 meet applicable requirements prescribed by federal law and  
13 regulations; and

14       (b) The effects of reductions to rates of reimbursement under  
15 Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program on agencies  
16 which provide child welfare services and other persons and entities  
17 that provide services to children in the child welfare system in this  
18 State.

19       (c) **additional factors including: caseload complexity, workload of  
20 each agency, and economic factors such as cost of living,  
population growth, and outdated federal IV-E income  
requirements impacting each child welfare agency.**

21       (d) **any needed investments in technology to support the  
State’s centralized information system; and**

22       (e) **any other subjects identified by the child welfare  
agencies to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on**

**Health and Human services, which may include the impacts on children served by both child welfare and the juvenile justice systems.**

21       2. On or before January 15, 2025, the Joint Interim Standing  
22 Committee on Health and Human Services shall submit to the  
23 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the  
24 next regular session of the Legislature a written report concerning  
25 the funding of the agencies which provide child welfare services in  
26 this State which must include, without limitation:

27       (a) The results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection 1;  
28 and

29       (b) Solutions, including, without limitation, solutions to issues  
30 related to funding, identified in the study conducted pursuant to  
31 subsection 1.

32       3. As used in this section, “agency which provides child  
33 welfare services” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 432B.030.

---

---