

Committee Action:
Do Pass _____
Amend & Do Pass _____
Other _____

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

This measure may be considered for action during today's work session.

SENATE BILL 41

Revises provisions relating to child welfare. (BDR 38-392)

Sponsored By: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services (On behalf of the Nevada Association of Counties)

Date Heard: March 2, 2023

Fiscal Notes: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

Senate Bill 41 requires the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to award categorical grants to agencies that serve a county with a population of over 100,000.

- An agency is required to submit to the Division a description of the specific goal it aims to achieve over the upcoming biennium using the categorical grant or an estimate of the percentage of the goal that will be achieved.
- A child welfare agency that receives the categorical grant must use the money allocated to achieve a specific goal, and there are no restrictions on how any money left over after achieving the goal may be used. A report must be submitted by the agency to the Division at the conclusion of the biennium for which the grant was received stating whether the goal was achieved and, if not, what percentage of the goal was achieved.
- Similar information is to be reported to the Governor and the Legislature.
- Lastly, this bill requires the Joint interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services to study issues related to the funding of agencies that provide welfare services, and the effects of reductions to rates of reimbursement under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Amendments

The Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) proposes conceptual amendments which are attached. In summary, the amendments:

- Provide authority for the State to administer the grant as a categorical annual grant instead of as an incentive grant.
- Base this process on the fiscal year, rather than the calendar year, so that agencies get the funding for one year and report the outcomes and goals of the plan to access funding in the biennium.
- Change the timeline of reporting the progress made by each agency to the Governor and the Legislature to 60 days from year-end after the submission of improvement plans.
- Adds factors and additional topics to be addressed and studied by the 2023–2024 Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.



Nevada Association of Counties (NACO)

Proposed Amendment to Senate Bill 41

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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 each agency, and economic factors such as cost of living, population growth, and outdated federal IV-E income requirements impacting each child welfare agency.**

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

 (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.
