

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

*Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.750*

This summary presents recommendations approved by the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs (*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 218E.750) at its final work session meeting on June 20, 2012. These recommendations will be submitted to the 77th Legislative Session for its consideration in 2013.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

1. Amend the statutes to make various changes relating to Home and Community-Based Services. **(BDR -116)**
2. Amend the statutes to require a facility for skilled nursing to conduct an annual assessment of each patient in the facility who receives Medicaid benefits to determine if the patient qualifies for a lower level of care or Home and Community-Based Services. **(BDR -117)**
3. Amend the statutes (such as NRS 449.123) to make the following changes concerning criminal background investigations of independent contractors and certain employees of facilities for long-term care: **(BDR -118)**
  - a. Create an exception to the requirement that facilities for long-term care conduct criminal background investigations of independent contractors and temporary employees. A facility would not need to conduct a criminal background investigation of any independent contractor or temporary employee who is placed in the facility by an employment agency that has completed a criminal background investigation on the independent contractor or temporary employee. A criminal background investigation conducted by an employment agency would be valid for as long as the independent contractor or temporary employee maintains continuous employment with the employment agency.
  - b. Create an exception to the requirement that facilities for long-term care conduct a criminal background investigation on an employee who possesses a professional license if the professional or occupational board or commission conducted a criminal background investigation as a requirement for licensure.
4. Amend the statutes (such as NRS 200.5093) to reinstate members of the clergy and attorneys as mandatory reporters of abuse of those over age 60. **(BDR -123)**

5. Amend the statutes (such as Chapter 483 of NRS) providing that if a person applying to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for an instruction permit, driver's license, or identification card declares that he or she is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, the person may request that his or her veteran's status be placed on the instruction permit, driver's license, or identification card. Any such person would be required to provide evidence satisfactory to the DMV that he or she has been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States. **(BDR -145)**
6. Amend the statutes (such as NRS 176A.280) to require every district court located in a county whose population is 700,000 or more to establish a specialty court program for veterans. **(BDR -124)**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE LETTERS**

7. Send a letter to the members of the Senate Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means of the 2013 Legislature requesting that the Committees consider increasing the level of funding budgeted from the State General Fund for Home and Community-Based Services for seniors, veterans, and adults with special needs.
8. Send a letter urging the Eighth Judicial District Court (Clark County) to establish a specialty court program for veterans.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEMENTS IN THE FINAL REPORT**

9. Include a statement in the final report that Nevada should develop a philosophy that consumer choice and quality of life should drive the long-term support services system; and expand Medicaid funding for Home and Community-Based Services rather than nursing home care.
10. Include a statement in the final report encouraging the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada to establish paratransit and fixed-route service to the new Veterans Administration Medical Center in southern Nevada.
11. Include a statement in the final report encouraging courts to apply for any available federal funding and grants for the purpose of establishing or expanding, as applicable, specialty court programs for veterans.