

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to domestic relations; revising provisions governing the recognition of domestic partnerships from other jurisdictions; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law recognizes a domestic partnership as a type of social contract in the State of Nevada which affords domestic partners the same rights, protections, benefits, responsibilities, obligations and duties as spouses. (Title 11 of NRS) Under existing law, a legal union that was validly formed in another jurisdiction and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership must be recognized in this State if the parties register the domestic partnership with the Office of the Secretary of State. (NRS 122A.010-122A.510) **Section 6** of this bill removes the requirement to register such a domestic partnership.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 122A.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122A.030 “Domestic partners” means persons who:

1. Have registered a valid domestic partnership pursuant to NRS 122A.100 ~~or~~ *or have a recognized domestic partnership pursuant to NRS 122A.500*; and

2. Have not terminated that domestic partnership pursuant to NRS 122A.300.

Sec. 2. NRS 122A.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122A.040 “Domestic partnership” means the social contract between two persons that is described in NRS 122A.100 ~~is~~ *or is recognized pursuant to NRS 122A.500*.

Sec. 3. NRS 122A.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122A.100 1. A valid domestic partnership is registered in the State of Nevada when two persons who satisfy the requirements of subsection 2:

(a) File with the Office of the Secretary of State, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, a signed and notarized statement declaring that both persons:

(1) Have chosen to share one another’s lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring; and

(2) Desire of their own free will to enter into a domestic partnership; and



(b) Pay to the Office of the Secretary of State a reasonable filing fee established by the Secretary of State, which filing fee must not exceed the total of an amount set by the Secretary of State to estimate:

(1) The cost incurred by the Secretary of State to issue the Certificate described in subsection 3; and

(2) Any other associated administrative costs incurred by the Secretary of State.

➔ The Office of the Secretary of State shall account for the fees received pursuant to paragraph (b) separately, and use those fees, and any interest and income earned on those fees, solely to pay for expenses related to administering the registration of domestic partnerships pursuant to this chapter, including, without limitation, the cost of materials and technology necessary to process and record the filing. At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary of State shall reconcile the amount of the fees received pursuant to paragraph (b) and the expenses related to administering the registration of domestic partnerships pursuant to this chapter and deposit any excess fees received with the State Treasurer for credit to the State General Fund.

2. To be eligible to register pursuant to subsection 1, two persons desiring to enter into a domestic partnership must furnish proof satisfactory to the Office of the Secretary of State that:

(a) Both persons have a common residence;

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided in NRS 122A.500, neither~~ **Neither** person is married or a member of another domestic partnership;

(c) The two persons are not related by blood in a way that would prevent them from being married to each other in this State;

(d) Both persons are at least 18 years of age; and

(e) Both persons are competent to consent to the domestic partnership.

3. The Office of the Secretary of State shall issue a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership to persons who satisfy the applicable requirements of this section.

4. As used in this section:

(a) "Common residence" means a residence shared by both domestic partners on at least a part-time basis, irrespective of whether:

(1) Ownership of the residence or the right to occupy the residence is in the name of only one of the domestic partners; and

(2) One or both of the domestic partners owns or occupies an additional residence.



(b) "Residence" means any house, room, apartment, tenement or other building, vehicle, vehicle trailer, semitrailer, house trailer or boat designed or intended for occupancy as a residence.

Sec. 4. NRS 122A.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122A.200 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 122A.210:

(a) Domestic partners have the same rights, protections and benefits, and are subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and duties under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative regulations, court rules, government policies, common law or any other provisions or sources of law, as are granted to and imposed upon spouses.

(b) Former domestic partners have the same rights, protections and benefits, and are subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and duties under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative regulations, court rules, government policies, common law or any other provisions or sources of law, as are granted to and imposed upon former spouses.

(c) A surviving domestic partner, following the death of the other partner, has the same rights, protections and benefits, and is subject to the same responsibilities, obligations and duties under law, whether derived from statutes, administrative regulations, court rules, government policies, common law or any other provisions or sources of law, as are granted to and imposed upon a widow or a widower.

(d) The rights and obligations of domestic partners with respect to a child of either of them are the same as those of spouses. The rights and obligations of former or surviving domestic partners with respect to a child of either of them are the same as those of former or surviving spouses.

(e) To the extent that provisions of Nevada law adopt, refer to or rely upon provisions of federal law in a way that otherwise would cause domestic partners to be treated differently from spouses, domestic partners must be treated by Nevada law as if federal law recognized a domestic partnership in the same manner as Nevada law.

(f) Domestic partners have the same right to nondiscriminatory treatment as that provided to spouses.

(g) A public agency in this State shall not discriminate against any person or couple on the basis or ground that the person is a domestic partner rather than a spouse or that the couple are domestic partners rather than spouses.

(h) The provisions of this chapter do not preclude a public agency from exercising its regulatory authority to carry out laws



providing rights to, or imposing responsibilities upon, domestic partners.

(i) Where necessary to protect the rights of domestic partners pursuant to this chapter, gender-specific terms referring to spouses must be construed to include domestic partners.

(j) For the purposes of the statutes, administrative regulations, court rules, government policies, common law and any other provision or source of law governing the rights, protections and benefits, and the responsibilities, obligations and duties of domestic partners in this State, as effectuated by the provisions of this chapter, with respect to:

(1) Community property;

(2) Mutual responsibility for debts to third parties;

(3) The right in particular circumstances of either partner to seek financial support from the other following the dissolution of the partnership; and

(4) Other rights and duties as between the partners concerning ownership of property,

→ any reference to the date of a marriage shall be deemed to refer to the date of registration of the domestic partnership **H pursuant to NRS 122A.100 or, if the domestic partnership is recognized pursuant to NRS 122A.500, the date on which the legal union of the domestic partnership was validly formed in the other jurisdiction.**

2. As used in this section, “public agency” means an agency, bureau, board, commission, department or division of the State of Nevada or a political subdivision of the State of Nevada.

Sec. 5. NRS 122A.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122A.300 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, domestic partners who wish to terminate a domestic partnership registered pursuant to NRS 122A.100 **or is recognized pursuant to NRS 122A.500** must follow the procedures set forth in chapter 125 of NRS.

2. If a domestic partnership meets the criteria specified in subsection 3, domestic partners in a domestic partnership registered pursuant to NRS 122A.100 may terminate the domestic partnership by:

(a) Filing with the Office of the Secretary of State, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, a signed and notarized statement declaring that both persons have chosen of their own free will to terminate the domestic partnership; and

(b) Paying to the Office of the Secretary of State a reasonable filing fee established by the Secretary of State, which filing fee must



not exceed the total of any administrative costs incurred by the Secretary of State.

3. For a domestic partnership to qualify for the simplified termination proceedings set forth in subsection 2, all of the following conditions must exist at the time of the filing pursuant to that subsection:

(a) The domestic partnership has been registered for 5 years or less.

(b) There are no minor children of the relationship of the parties born before or during the domestic partnership or adopted by the parties during the domestic partnership and no female member of the domestic partnership, to her knowledge, is pregnant, or the parties have executed an agreement as to the custody of any children and setting forth the amount and manner of their support.

(c) There is no community or joint property or the parties have executed an agreement setting forth the division of community property and the assumption of liabilities of the community, if any, and have executed any deeds, certificates of title, bills of sale or other evidence of transfer necessary to effectuate the agreement.

(d) The parties waive any rights to support or the parties have executed an agreement setting forth the amount and manner of support.

(e) The parties waive any right to the conduct of more comprehensive proceedings pursuant to chapter 125 of NRS.

Sec. 6. NRS 122A.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122A.500 A legal union of two persons, other than a marriage as recognized by the Nevada Constitution, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership as defined in this chapter, must be recognized as a valid domestic partnership in this State regardless of whether the union bears the name of a domestic partnership ~~[- For a legal union that was validly formed in another jurisdiction to be recognized as a valid domestic partnership]~~ **or is registered** in this State. ~~[- the parties desiring such recognition must comply with the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 122A.100.]~~

Sec. 7. NRS 126.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:

126.520 “Domestic partner” means a person who is in a domestic partnership which is registered **or recognized** pursuant to chapter 122A of NRS and which has not been terminated pursuant to that chapter.

Sec. 8. NRS 1A.555 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1A.555 “Domestic partner” means a person who is in a domestic partnership which is registered **or recognized** pursuant to



chapter 122A of NRS and which has not been terminated pursuant to that chapter.

Sec. 9. NRS 159.0613 is hereby amended to read as follows:

159.0613 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, in a proceeding to appoint a guardian for an adult, the court shall give preference to a nominated person or relative, in that order of preference:

(a) Whether or not the nominated person or relative is a resident of this State; and

(b) If the court determines that the nominated person or relative is qualified and suitable to be appointed as guardian for the adult.

2. In determining whether any nominated person, relative or other person listed in subsection 4 is qualified and suitable to be appointed as guardian for an adult, the court shall consider, if applicable and without limitation:

(a) The ability of the nominated person, relative or other person to provide for the basic needs of the adult, including, without limitation, food, shelter, clothing and medical care;

(b) Whether the nominated person, relative or other person has engaged in the habitual use of alcohol or any controlled substance during the previous 6 months, except the use of marijuana in accordance with the provisions of chapter 453A of NRS;

(c) Whether the nominated person, relative or other person has been judicially determined to have committed abuse, neglect, exploitation, isolation or abandonment of a child, his or her spouse, his or her parent or any other adult, unless the court finds that it is in the best interests of the ward to appoint the person as guardian for the adult;

(d) Whether the nominated person, relative or other person is incompetent or has a disability; and

(e) Whether the nominated person, relative or other person has been convicted in this State or any other jurisdiction of a felony, unless the court determines that any such conviction should not disqualify the person from serving as guardian for the adult.

3. If the court finds that two or more nominated persons are qualified and suitable to be appointed as guardian for an adult, the court may appoint two or more nominated persons as co-guardians or shall give preference among them in the following order of preference:

(a) A person whom the adult nominated for the appointment as guardian for the adult in a will, trust or other written instrument that is part of the adult's established estate plan and was executed by the adult while competent.



(b) A person whom the adult requested for the appointment as guardian for the adult in a written instrument that is not part of the adult's established estate plan and was executed by the adult while competent.

4. Subject to the preferences set forth in subsections 1 and 3, the court shall appoint as guardian the qualified person who is most suitable and is willing to serve. In determining which qualified person is most suitable, the court shall, in addition to considering any applicable factors set forth in subsection 2, give consideration, among other factors, to:

(a) Any nomination or request for the appointment as guardian by the adult.

(b) Any nomination or request for the appointment as guardian by a relative.

(c) The relationship by blood, adoption, marriage or domestic partnership of the proposed guardian to the adult. In considering preferences of appointment, the court may consider relatives of the half blood equally with those of the whole blood. The court may consider any relative in the following order of preference:

(1) A spouse or domestic partner.

(2) A child.

(3) A parent.

(4) Any relative with whom the adult has resided for more than 6 months before the filing of the petition or any relative who has a power of attorney executed by the adult while competent.

(5) Any relative currently acting as agent.

(6) A sibling.

(7) A grandparent or grandchild.

(8) An uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or cousin.

(9) Any other person recognized to be in a familial relationship with the adult.

(d) Any recommendation made by a master of the court or special master pursuant to NRS 159.0615.

(e) Any request for the appointment of any other interested person that the court deems appropriate, including, without limitation, a person who is not a relative and who has a power of attorney executed by the adult while competent.

5. The court may appoint as guardian any nominated person, relative or other person listed in subsection 4 who is not a resident of this State. The court shall not give preference to a resident of this State over a nonresident if the court determines that:

(a) The nonresident is more qualified and suitable to serve as guardian; and



(b) The distance from the proposed guardian's place of residence and the adult's place of residence will not affect the quality of the guardianship or the ability of the proposed guardian to make decisions and respond quickly to the needs of the adult because:

(1) A person or care provider in this State is providing continuing care and supervision for the adult;

(2) The adult is in a secured residential long-term care facility in this State; or

(3) Within 30 days after the appointment of the proposed guardian, the proposed guardian will move to this State or the adult will move to the proposed guardian's state of residence.

6. If the court appoints a nonresident as guardian for the adult:

(a) The jurisdictional requirements of NRS 159.1991 to 159.2029, inclusive, must be met;

(b) The court shall order the guardian to designate a registered agent in this State in the same manner as a represented entity pursuant to chapter 77 of NRS; and

(c) The court may require the guardian to complete any available training concerning guardianships pursuant to NRS 159.0592, in this State or in the state of residence of the guardian, regarding:

(1) The legal duties and responsibilities of the guardian pursuant to this chapter;

(2) The preparation of records and the filing of annual reports regarding the finances and well-being of the adult required pursuant to NRS 159.073;

(3) The rights of the adult;

(4) The availability of local resources to aid the adult; and

(5) Any other matter the court deems necessary or prudent.

7. If the court finds that there is not any suitable nominated person, relative or other person listed in subsection 4 to appoint as guardian, the court may appoint as guardian:

(a) The public guardian of the county where the adult resides if:

(1) There is a public guardian in the county where the adult resides; and

(2) The adult qualifies for a public guardian pursuant to chapter 253 of NRS;

(b) A private fiduciary who may obtain a bond in this State and who is a resident of this State, if the court finds that the interests of the adult will be served appropriately by the appointment of a private fiduciary; or



(c) A private professional guardian who meets the requirements of NRS 159.0595.

8. A person is not qualified to be appointed as guardian for an adult if the person has been suspended for misconduct or disbarred from any of the professions listed in this subsection, but the disqualification applies only during the period of the suspension or disbarment. This subsection applies to:

- (a) The practice of law;
- (b) The practice of accounting; or
- (c) Any other profession that:

(1) Involves or may involve the management or sale of money, investments, securities or real property; and

(2) Requires licensure in this State or any other state in which the person practices his or her profession.

9. As used in this section:

(a) "Adult" means a person who is a ward or a proposed ward and who is not a minor.

(b) "Domestic partner" means a person in a domestic partnership.

(c) "Domestic partnership" means ~~†~~

~~— (1) A~~ a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040 .
~~†; or~~

~~— (2) A domestic partnership which was validly formed in another jurisdiction and which is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040, regardless of whether it bears the name of a domestic partnership or is registered in this State.†~~

(d) "Nominated person" means a person, whether or not a relative, whom an adult:

(1) Nominates for the appointment as guardian for the adult in a will, trust or other written instrument that is part of the adult's established estate plan and was executed by the adult while competent.

(2) Requests for the appointment as guardian for the adult in a written instrument that is not part of the adult's established estate plan and was executed by the adult while competent.

(e) "Relative" means a person who is 18 years of age or older and who is related to the adult by blood, adoption, marriage or domestic partnership within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity.

Sec. 10. NRS 195.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

195.030 1. Every person who is not the spouse or domestic partner of the offender and who, after the commission of a felony,



destroys or conceals, or aids in the destruction or concealment of, material evidence, or harbors or conceals such offender with intent that the offender may avoid or escape from arrest, trial, conviction or punishment, having knowledge that such offender has committed a felony or is liable to arrest, is an accessory to the felony.

2. Every person who is not the spouse, domestic partner, brother or sister, parent or grandparent, child or grandchild of the offender, who, after the commission of a gross misdemeanor, harbors, conceals or aids such offender with intent that the offender may avoid or escape from arrest, trial, conviction or punishment, having knowledge that such offender has committed a gross misdemeanor or is liable to arrest, is an accessory to the gross misdemeanor.

3. As used in this section, "domestic partner" means a person who is in a domestic partnership that is registered *or recognized* pursuant to chapter 122A of NRS, and that has not been terminated pursuant to that chapter.

Sec. 11. NRS 218C.582 is hereby amended to read as follows:

218C.582 1. The spouse of a Legislator who is a member of the Legislators' Retirement System killed in the course of legislative service on or after July 1, 2013, is entitled to receive a monthly allowance equivalent to the greater of:

(a) Fifty percent of the salary of the member on the date of the member's death; or

(b) One hundred percent of the retirement allowance that the member was eligible to receive based on the member's years of service obtained before the member's death without any reduction for age for the deceased member.

2. The benefits provided by this section must be paid to the spouse for the remainder of the spouse's life.

3. The spouse may elect to receive the benefits by any one of the following only:

(a) This section; or

(b) NRS 218C.580.

4. For the purposes of this section, the Board shall define by regulation "killed in the course of legislative service."

5. As used in this section:

(a) "Domestic partner" means a person who is in a domestic partnership which is registered *or recognized* pursuant to chapter 122A of NRS and which has not been terminated pursuant to that chapter.

(b) "Spouse" means the surviving husband, wife or domestic partner of a Legislator killed in the course of legislative service.



Sec. 12. NRS 218H.036 is hereby amended to read as follows:
218H.036 “Domestic partnership” means †

~~1. A) a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040 . †~~
~~or~~

~~2. A domestic partnership which was validly formed in another jurisdiction and which is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040, regardless of whether it bears the name of a domestic partnership or is registered in this State.]~~

Sec. 13. NRS 281.5582 is hereby amended to read as follows:
281.5582 “Domestic partnership” means †

~~1. A) a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040 . †~~
~~or~~

~~2. A domestic partnership which was validly formed in another jurisdiction and which is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040, regardless of whether it bears the name of a domestic partnership or is registered in this State.]~~

Sec. 14. NRS 281A.086 is hereby amended to read as follows:

281A.086 “Domestic partnership” means †

~~1. A) a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040 . †~~
~~or~~

~~2. A domestic partnership which was validly formed in another jurisdiction and which is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership as defined in NRS 122A.040, regardless of whether it bears the name of a domestic partnership or is registered in this State.]~~

Sec. 15. NRS 286.671 is hereby amended to read as follows:
286.671 As used in NRS 286.671 to 286.679, inclusive:

1. “Child” means an unmarried person under 18 years of age who is the issue or legally adopted child of a deceased member. As used in this subsection, “issue” means the progeny or biological offspring of the deceased member.

2. “Dependent parent” means the surviving parent of a deceased member who was dependent upon the deceased member for at least 50 percent of the surviving parent’s support for at least 6 months immediately preceding the death of the deceased member.

3. “Domestic partner” means a person who is in a domestic partnership that is registered *or recognized* pursuant to chapter 122A of NRS, and that has not been terminated pursuant to that chapter.



4. "Spouse" means the surviving husband or wife or domestic partner of a deceased member.

Sec. 16. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

