

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 257—ASSEMBLYWOMAN  
SUMMERS-ARMSTRONG

MARCH 7, 2023

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to forensic medical examinations of certain victims of certain crimes. (BDR 16-839)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: No.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1)  
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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

AN ACT relating to forensic medical examinations; requiring the county in whose jurisdiction a domestic violence battery by strangulation is committed to pay the costs of a strangulation forensic medical examination of the victim; authorizing a county to be reimbursed for such costs, to the extent that money is available from legislative appropriation; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

- 1 Existing law: (1) requires a county in whose jurisdiction a sexual assault is
- 2 committed to pay for the costs of a forensic medical examination of the victim; and
- 3 (2) provides that such costs must not be charged directly to the victim. (NRS
- 4 217.300) **Section 1** of this bill similarly: (1) requires a county in whose jurisdiction
- 5 a domestic violence battery by strangulation was committed to pay for the costs of
- 6 a strangulation forensic medical examination of the victim; and (2) provides that
- 7 such costs must not be charged directly to the victim.
- 8 **Section 1** additionally provides that a county which pays such costs may
- 9 receive reimbursement from the State, to the extent that money is available for that
- 10 purpose from legislative appropriation.
- 11 **Section 3** of this bill makes a conforming change to indicate the proper
- 12 placement of **section 1** in the Nevada Revised Statutes.
- 13 **Section 3.5** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Division of Child and
- 14 Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose



15 of reimbursing counties for costs incurred by the counties in complying with the  
16 requirements prescribed by **section 1**.

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

1     **Section 1.** Chapter 217 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3     1. *The county in whose jurisdiction a domestic violence*  
4 *battery by strangulation is committed shall pay any costs incurred*  
5 *by a hospital for a strangulation forensic medical examination of*  
6 *the victim.*

7     2. *Any costs incurred pursuant to subsection 1:*

8     (a) *Must not be charged directly to the victim.*

9     (b) *Must be charged to the county in whose jurisdiction the*  
10 *offense was committed.*

11     3. *A county which pays costs related to a strangulation*  
12 *forensic medical examination pursuant to subsection 1 may, to the*  
13 *extent that money is available for that purpose from legislative*  
14 *appropriation, receive reimbursement from the State.*

15     4. *The filing of a report with the appropriate law enforcement*  
16 *agency must not be a prerequisite to qualify for a strangulation*  
17 *forensic medical examination pursuant to this section.*

18     5. *Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the*  
19 *use of evidence obtained from a strangulation forensic medical*  
20 *examination during the investigation or prosecution of a person*  
21 *for domestic violence battery by strangulation.*

22     6. *As used in this section:*

23     (a) *“Domestic violence battery by strangulation” means a*  
24 *battery which constitutes domestic violence pursuant to NRS*  
25 *33.018 that is committed by strangulation as described in*  
26 *NRS 200.481.*

27     (b) *“Strangulation forensic medical examination” means an*  
28 *examination conducted by a health care provider for the purpose*  
29 *of assessing the health care needs of a victim of a domestic*  
30 *violence battery by strangulation and coordinating the treatment*  
31 *of any injuries of the victim.*

32     **Sec. 2.** (Deleted by amendment.)

33     **Sec. 3.** NRS 217.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

34     217.400 As used in NRS 217.400 to 217.475, inclusive, *and*  
35 *section 1 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires:

36     1. “Dating relationship” means frequent, intimate associations  
37 primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual  
38 involvement. The term does not include a casual relationship or an  
39 ordinary association between persons in a business or social context.



1 2. "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services  
2 of the Department of Health and Human Services.

3 3. "Domestic violence" means:

4 (a) The attempt to cause or the causing of bodily injury to a  
5 family or household member or the placing of the member in fear of  
6 imminent physical harm by threat of force.

7 (b) Any of the following acts committed by a person against a  
8 family or household member, a person with whom he or she had or  
9 is having a dating relationship or with whom he or she has a child in  
10 common, or upon his or her minor child or a minor child of that  
11 person:

12 (1) A battery.

13 (2) An assault.

14 (3) Compelling the other by force or threat of force to  
15 perform an act from which he or she has the right to refrain or to  
16 refrain from an act which he or she has the right to perform.

17 (4) A sexual assault.

18 (5) A knowing, purposeful or reckless course of conduct  
19 intended to harass the other. Such conduct may include, without  
20 limitation:

21 (I) Stalking.

22 (II) Arson.

23 (III) Trespassing.

24 (IV) Larceny.

25 (V) Destruction of private property.

26 (VI) Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit.

27 (6) False imprisonment.

28 (7) Unlawful entry of the other's residence, or forcible entry  
29 against the other's will if there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of  
30 harm to the other from the entry.

31 4. "Family or household member" means a spouse, a former  
32 spouse, a parent or other adult person who is related by blood or  
33 marriage or is or was actually residing with the person committing  
34 the act of domestic violence.

35 5. "Participant" means an adult, child or incapacitated person  
36 for whom a fictitious address has been issued pursuant to NRS  
37 217.462 to 217.471, inclusive.

38 6. "Victim of domestic violence" includes the dependent  
39 children of the victim.

40 7. "Victim of human trafficking" means a person who is a  
41 victim of:

42 (a) Involuntary servitude as set forth in NRS 200.463 or  
43 200.464.

44 (b) A violation of any provision of NRS 200.465.



1 (c) Trafficking in persons in violation of any provision of NRS  
2 200.467 or 200.468.

3 (d) Sex trafficking in violation of any provision of  
4 NRS 201.300.

5 (e) A violation of NRS 201.320 or 201.395.

6 8. "Victim of sexual assault" and "victim of sexual violence"  
7 mean a person who has been sexually assaulted as defined in NRS  
8 200.366 or a person upon whom a sexual assault has been  
9 attempted.

10 9. "Victim of stalking" means a person who is a victim of the  
11 crime of stalking or aggravated stalking as set forth in NRS 200.575.

12 **Sec. 3.5.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State  
13 General Fund to the Division of Child and Family Services of the  
14 Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of  
15 reimbursing counties for costs incurred by the counties in complying  
16 with the requirements prescribed by section 1 of this act the  
17 following sums:

18 For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024..... \$1,080,000

19 For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025..... \$1,080,000

20 2. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1  
21 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be  
22 committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal  
23 years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity  
24 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise  
25 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated  
26 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after  
27 September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively, by  
28 either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity  
29 to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and  
30 must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before  
31 September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively.

32 **Sec. 4.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any  
33 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the  
34 provisions of this act.

35 **Sec. 5.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and  
36 approval.

37 2. Section 3.5 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

38 3. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this act become effective on  
39 October 1, 2023.

