

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 348—ASSEMBLYWOMAN TORRES

MARCH 20, 2023

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Creates the Virtual Early Childhood Family Engagement Pilot Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. (BDR S-988)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

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

AN ACT relating to education; creating the Virtual Early Childhood Family Engagement Pilot Program in the Department of Health and Human Services; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law establishes the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and
2 requires the Council to develop recommendations for: (1) increasing the
3 participation of children in early childhood education programs; and (2) the
4 establishment of statewide standards for early childhood education programs. (NRS
5 432A.076) **Section 4** of this bill creates the Virtual Early Childhood Family
6 Engagement Pilot Program within the Department of Health and Human Services.
7 **Section 5** of this bill requires the Department to select a nonprofit organization that
8 has demonstrated a record of success in virtual early childhood family engagement
9 programs to administer the Program. **Section 6** of this bill requires the organization
10 selected to administer the Program to: (1) create a plan to recruit parents, guardians
11 and foster parents of children who are 4 years of age throughout the State to
12 participate in the Program; and (2) provide programming in reading, math and
13 science to participating children and their parents, guardians or foster parents in
14 their residences through audiovisual communication technology. **Section 7** of this
15 bill requires the organization selected to administer the Program to submit an
16 annual report to the Department concerning: (1) the demographics of children who
17 are participating in the Program; and (2) the success of the Program in preparing
18 children for kindergarten. **Section 7** also requires the Department to submit similar
19 reports to the Legislature. **Sections 2 and 3** of this bill define certain terms related
20 to the Program. **Section 8** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Department for
21 the support of the Program.



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

1 **Section 1.** As used in sections 1 to 7, inclusive, of this act,
2 unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined
3 in sections 2 and 3 of this act have the meaning ascribed to them in
4 those sections.

5 **Sec. 2.** “Department” means the Department of Health and
6 Human Services.

7 **Sec. 3.** “Program” means the Virtual Early Childhood Family
8 Engagement Pilot Program created by section 4 of this act.

9 **Sec. 4.** 1. The Virtual Early Childhood Family Engagement
10 Pilot Program is hereby created within the Department.

11 2. The purposes of the Program are to:

12 (a) Provide training and coaching to empower parents and
13 guardians of young children in the education of their child; and

14 (b) Increase the readiness of children for kindergarten in every
15 geographic area of this State.

16 **Sec. 5.** 1. The Department shall issue a request for proposals
17 from organizations that are recognized as exempt under section
18 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), to
19 administer the Program.

20 2. The Department shall review the proposals submitted to the
21 Department pursuant to subsection 1 and select to administer the
22 Program an organization that has a record of success conducting
23 virtual early childhood family engagement programs throughout this
24 State, as demonstrated through independent, valid and reliable
25 evaluations.

26 **Sec. 6.** 1. The organization selected to administer the
27 Program pursuant to section 5 of this act shall:

28 (a) Create a plan to recruit parents, guardians and foster parents
29 of children described in paragraph (a) of subsection 2 who are from
30 diverse backgrounds and all geographic areas of the State to
31 participate in the Program;

32 (b) Provide the programming described in paragraph (b) of
33 subsection 2 to such children and their parents, guardians or foster
34 parents in their residences through audiovisual communication
35 technology;

36 (c) Provide for the installation of a computer or Internet service
37 if the residence of the child or parent, guardian or foster parent lacks
38 such a device or service; and

39 (d) Effectively engage the parents, guardians and foster parents
40 who participate in the Program to empower them in the education of
41 their children.

42 2. The Program must:



1 (a) Serve children who are 4 years of age at the beginning of the
2 school year, including, without limitation, children:

3 (1) Whose household has an income which is not more than
4 200 percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty;

5 (2) Who are in the foster care system; or

6 (3) Who reside in rural areas of this State.

7 (b) Utilize a developmentally appropriate, adaptive curriculum
8 in reading, mathematics and science for the Program that:

9 (1) Is aligned to the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes*
10 *Framework: Ages Birth to Five* published by the Office of Head
11 Start of the Administration for Children and Families of the United
12 States Department of Health and Human Services and any standards
13 of content and performance established for prekindergarten pursuant
14 to NRS 389.520;

15 (2) Is aligned to the *WIDA Early Language Development*
16 *Standards* prescribed by *WIDA*;

17 (3) Is certified as a Certified Autism Resource by the
18 International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education
19 Standards; and

20 (4) Is endorsed by the Council of Administrators of Special
21 Education.

22 (c) Ensure that the time a child is required by the Program to use
23 a digital screen is less than the maximum amount of time
24 recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics for children
25 who are 4 years of age to use a digital screen.

26 **Sec. 7.** 1. On or before July 30, 2024, and July 30, 2025, the
27 organization selected to administer the Program pursuant to section
28 5 of this act shall submit a report to the Department which includes,
29 without limitation:

30 (a) The number of children enrolled in the Program during the
31 immediately preceding school year, in total and in each county of
32 this State;

33 (b) The number and percentage of children described in
34 paragraph (a) who meet each criterion identified in paragraph (a) of
35 subsection 2 of section 6 of this act;

36 (c) The demographics of the children enrolled in the Program, if
37 known, including, without limitation:

38 (1) Race;

39 (2) Ethnicity;

40 (3) Disability status;

41 (4) Household income;

42 (5) County of residence; and

43 (6) Language spoken at home;

44 (d) Quantitative data and, to the extent any is available,
45 qualitative data that demonstrates the effectiveness of the Program



1 at improving the abilities of a child in reading, writing and
2 mathematics and the readiness of the children participating in the
3 Program for kindergarten, including, without limitation:

4 (1) Data concerning the educational development of the
5 children participating in the Program;

6 (2) The number of children who completed the Program and
7 who are ready for kindergarten; and

8 (3) Data concerning the level of satisfaction that parents,
9 guardians and foster parents have concerning the Program; and

10 (e) Any additional information determined by the Department to
11 be necessary to evaluate the Program.

12 2. On or before September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025,
13 the Department shall compile a report of the data reported pursuant
14 to subsection 1 and submit the report to the Director of the
15 Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to:

16 (a) In 2024, the next regular session of the Legislature; and

17 (b) In 2025, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education
18 and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human
19 Services.

20 **Sec. 8.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
21 General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services to
22 establish and implement the Virtual Early Childhood Family
23 Engagement Pilot Program created by section 4 of this act the
24 following sums:

25 For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 \$4,000,000

26 For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 \$4,000,000

27 2. The Department may allocate not more than 7.5 percent of
28 the appropriated sum for each fiscal year to itself to administer the
29 program.

30 3. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1
31 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be
32 committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal
33 years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
34 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
35 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
36 money must not be spent for any purpose after September 20, 2024,
37 and September 19, 2025, respectively, by either the entity to which
38 the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was
39 subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the
40 State General Fund on or before September 20, 2024, and
41 September 19, 2025, respectively.

42 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023, and expires
43 by limitation on September 30, 2025.

