

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.

~

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 eligible to enter kindergarten for the next
12 school year throughout the State to participate in the Program; (2) provide
13 programming in reading, math and science to participating children and their
14 parents, guardians or foster parents in their residences through computers; and (3)
15 provide the parents, guardians and foster parents of children participating in the
16 Program with information concerning relevant government programs. **Section 7** of
17 this bill requires the organization selected to administer the Program to submit an
18 annual report to the Department concerning: (1) the demographics of children who
19 are participating in the Program; and (2) the success of the Program in preparing
20 children for kindergarten. **Section 7** also requires the Department to submit similar
21 reports to the Legislature. **Sections 2 and 3** of this bill define certain terms related



22 to the Program. **Section 8.5** of this bill makes an appropriation to the Department to
23 establish and implement 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, as
24 demonstrated through independent, valid and reliable evaluations.

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

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

31 (b) Provide the programming described in paragraph (b) of
32 subsection 2 to such children and their parents, guardians or foster
33 parents in their residences through a computer or similar device;

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



1 (d) Effectively engage the parents, guardians and foster parents
2 who participate in the Program to empower them in the education of
3 their children; and

4 (e) At least twice during each school year that a child
5 participates in the Program, and upon request of the parent, guardian
6 or foster parent of a child who is participating in the Program,
7 provide such parents, guardians or foster parents information in
8 electronic form or in writing concerning relevant services and
9 resources provided by the State and relevant political subdivisions
10 of this State, including, without limitation:

11 (1) Any program that provides:

12 (I) Rental and housing assistance; or

13 (II) Subsidies for child care;

14 (2) The Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program
15 established and administered by the Department pursuant to
16 NRS 432B.622;

17 (3) Preschools that provide in-person instruction;

18 (4) Registration for kindergarten;

19 (5) Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program;

20 (6) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, as defined in
21 NRS 422A.080;

22 (7) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, as defined in
23 NRS 422A.072;

24 (8) Early intervention services, as defined in NRS
25 427A.8715; and

26 (9) Programs for workforce development.

27 2. The Program must:

28 (a) Serve children who will be eligible to enter kindergarten for
29 the next school year, including, without limitation, children:

30 (1) Whose household has an income which is not more than
31 200 percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty;

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

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

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

36 (1) Is aligned to the *Head Start Early Learning Outcomes*
37 *Framework: Ages Birth to Five* published by the Office of Head
38 Start of the Administration for Children and Families of the United
39 States Department of Health and Human Services and any standards
40 of content and performance established for prekindergarten pursuant
41 to NRS 389.520;

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



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

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

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

10 **Sec. 7.** 1. On or before July 30, 2024, and July 30, 2025, the
11 organization selected to administer the Program pursuant to section
12 5 of this act shall submit a report to the Department which includes,
13 without limitation:

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

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

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

22 (1) Race;

23 (2) Ethnicity;

24 (3) Disability status;

25 (4) Household income;

26 (5) County of residence; and

27 (6) Language spoken at home;

28 (d) Quantitative data and, to the extent any is available,
29 qualitative data that demonstrates the effectiveness of the Program
30 at improving the abilities of a child in reading, writing and
31 mathematics and the readiness of the children participating in the
32 Program for kindergarten, including, without limitation:

33 (1) Data concerning the educational development of the
34 children participating in the Program;

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

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

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

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

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



1 (b) In 2025, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education
2 and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human
3 Services.

4 **Sec. 8.** (Deleted by amendment.)

5 **Sec. 8.5.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
6 General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services to
7 establish and implement the Virtual Early Childhood Family
8 Engagement Pilot Program created by section 4 of this act the
9 following sums:

10 For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 \$1,000,000

11 For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 \$1,000,000

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

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

