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SENATE BILL NO. 286—SENATORS DONDERO LOOP, SPEARMAN, DONATE, HANSEN, STONE; BUCK, CANNIZZARO, DALY, FLORES, GOICOECHEA, HAMMOND, D. HARRIS, KRASNER, LANGE, NEAL, NGUYEN, OHRENSCHALL, PAZINA, SCHEIBLE, SEEVERS GANSERT AND TITUS

MARCH 15, 2023

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN JAUREGUI,  
MONROE-MORENO, PETERS AND YEAGER

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Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to health care.  
(BDR 40-84)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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

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AN ACT relating to health care; requiring the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to include certain information relating to multiple sclerosis on an Internet website; requiring the Governor to annually proclaim the third week in March as “Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week”; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law requires, within the limits of available money, the Division of  
2 Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human services to  
3 establish: (1) the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease  
4 to increase public knowledge and raise public awareness relating to wellness and  
5 chronic diseases; and (2) the Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness  
6 and the Prevention of Chronic Disease to advise and make recommendations to the  
7 Division concerning the Program. (NRS 439.517, 439.518) The Division is  
8 required, within the limits of available money and with the advice and  
9 recommendations of the Advisory Council, to carry out certain duties related to the  
10 Program, including maintaining a website to provide information and resources on  
11 nutrition, physical fitness, health, wellness and the prevention of chronic diseases.  
12 (NRS 439.521) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Division to also provide on such a



13 website information relating to multiple sclerosis, including, without limitation,  
14 information relating to resources that are available to residents of this State who  
15 have multiple sclerosis.

16 Existing law sets forth various days, weeks or months of observance in this  
17 State. (NRS 236.018-236.095) **Section 2** of this bill requires the Governor to  
18 annually proclaim the third week of March as “Multiple Sclerosis Awareness  
19 Week” in this State to bring to the attention of the residents of this State factual  
20 information and educational programs and materials regarding the signs, symptoms,  
21 diagnosis and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 439.521 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 439.521 1. To carry out the provisions of NRS 439.514 to  
3 439.525, inclusive, the Division shall, within the limits of available  
4 money, and with the advice and recommendations of the Advisory  
5 Council:

6 (a) Periodically prepare burden reports concerning health  
7 problems and diseases, including, without limitation, a lack of  
8 physical fitness, poor nutrition, tobacco use and exposure to tobacco  
9 smoke, chronic diseases, including, without limitation, obesity and  
10 diabetes, and other diseases, as determined by the Division, using  
11 the most recent information obtained through surveillance,  
12 epidemiology and research. As used in this paragraph, “burden  
13 report” means a calculation of the impact of a particular health  
14 problem or chronic disease on this State, as measured by financial  
15 cost, mortality, morbidity or other indicators specified by the  
16 Division.

17 (b) Prepare an annual report on obesity pursuant to paragraph (a)  
18 which must:

- 19 (1) Include, without limitation:  
20 (I) Current obesity rates in this State;  
21 (II) Information regarding obesity with regard to specific  
22 demographics;  
23 (III) Actions taken by the Division regarding obesity; and  
24 (IV) The State’s goals and achievements regarding  
25 obesity rates.

26 (2) On or before March 15 of each year, be submitted to the  
27 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to:

- 28 (I) The Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and  
29 Human Services during even-numbered years; and  
30 (II) The Legislature during odd-numbered years.

31 (c) Identify, review and encourage, in coordination with the  
32 Department of Education, the Nevada System of Higher Education  
33 and other appropriate state agencies, existing evidence-based



1 programs related to nutrition, physical fitness and tobacco  
2 prevention and cessation, including, without limitation, programs of  
3 state and local governments, educational institutions, businesses and  
4 the general public.

5 (d) Develop, promote and coordinate recommendations for  
6 model and evidence-based programs that contribute to reductions in  
7 the incidence of chronic disease in this State. The programs should  
8 encourage:

9 (1) Proper nutrition, physical fitness and health among the  
10 residents of this State, including, without limitation, parents and  
11 children, senior citizens, high-risk populations and persons with  
12 special needs; and

13 (2) Work-site wellness policies that include, without  
14 limitation, tobacco-free and breast feeding-friendly environments,  
15 healthy food and beverage choices and physical activity  
16 opportunities in schools, businesses and public buildings.

17 (e) Assist on projects within this State as requested by, and in  
18 coordination with, the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and  
19 Nutrition.

20 (f) Identify and review methods for reducing health care costs  
21 associated with tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke, chronic  
22 diseases, including, without limitation, obesity and diabetes, and  
23 other diseases, as determined by the Division.

24 (g) Maintain a website to provide information and resources on  
25 nutrition, physical fitness, health, wellness and the prevention of  
26 chronic diseases, including, without limitation, obesity and diabetes.  
27 *Such a website must also provide information relating to multiple*  
28 *sclerosis, including, without limitation, information relating to*  
29 *resources that are available to residents of this State who have*  
30 *multiple sclerosis.*

31 (h) Solicit information from and, to the extent feasible,  
32 coordinate its efforts with:

33 (1) Other governmental agencies;

34 (2) National health organizations and their local and state  
35 chapters;

36 (3) Community and business leaders;

37 (4) Community organizations;

38 (5) Providers of health care;

39 (6) Private schools; and

40 (7) Other persons who provide services relating to tobacco  
41 use and exposure, physical fitness and wellness and the prevention  
42 of chronic diseases, including, without limitation, obesity and  
43 diabetes, and other diseases.

44 (i) Establish, maintain and enhance statewide chronic disease  
45 surveillance systems.



1 (j) Translate surveillance, evaluation and research information  
2 into press releases, briefs, community education and advocacy  
3 materials and other publications that highlight chronic diseases and  
4 the key risk factors of those diseases.

5 (k) Identify, assist and encourage the growth of, through  
6 funding, training, resources and other support, the community's  
7 capacity to assist persons who have a chronic disease.

8 (l) Encourage relevant community organizations to effectively  
9 recruit key population groups to receive clinical preventative  
10 services, including, without limitation:

11 (1) Screening and early detection of breast, cervical and  
12 colorectal cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity;

13 (2) Oral screenings; and

14 (3) Tobacco cessation counseling.

15 (m) Promote positive policy, system and environmental changes  
16 within communities and the health care system based on, without  
17 limitation, the Chronic Care Model developed by the MacColl  
18 Center for Health Care Innovation and the Patient-Centered Medical  
19 Home Recognition Program of the National Committee for Quality  
20 Assurance.

21 (n) Review and revise the Program as needed.

22 2. As used in this section:

23 (a) "Chronic disease" means a health condition or disease which  
24 presents for a period of 3 months or more or is persistent, indefinite  
25 or incurable.

26 (b) "Obesity" means a chronic disease characterized by an  
27 abnormal and unhealthy accumulation of body fat which is  
28 statistically correlated with premature mortality, hypertension, heart  
29 disease, diabetes, cancer and other health conditions, and may be  
30 indicated by:

31 (1) A body mass index of 30 or higher in adults;

32 (2) A body mass index that is greater than two standard  
33 deviations above the World Health Organization's growth standard  
34 for children who are at least 5 but less than 19 years of age, or  
35 greater than three standard deviations above the standard for  
36 children who are less than 5 years of age;

37 (3) A body fat percentage greater than 25 percent for men or  
38 32 percent for women; or

39 (4) A waist size of 40 inches or more for men or 35 inches or  
40 more for women.

41 **Sec. 2.** Chapter 236 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
42 thereto a new section to read as follows:

43 *1. The Governor shall annually proclaim the third week in*  
44 *March to be "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week."*



1        *2. The proclamation must call upon news media, educators,*  
2 *health care providers and appropriate governmental officers to*  
3 *bring to the attention of the residents of this State factual*  
4 *information and educational programs and materials regarding*  
5 *the signs, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of multiple sclerosis.*  
6        **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

