
SENATE BILL NO. 70—COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

(ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the management of certain abandoned or unclaimed property by the Department of Veterans Services. (BDR 37-166)

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.

AN ACT relating to the Department of Veterans Services; revising provisions governing the management of certain abandoned or unclaimed property by the Department; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to
2 take possession of abandoned or unclaimed artifacts or other property that has
3 military value for safekeeping and authorizes the Director to transfer such property
4 to a veterans’ or military museum. (NRS 417.090) Under existing law, the
5 Administrator of Unclaimed Property is authorized to destroy or dispose of or
6 transfer unclaimed property in certain circumstances and is required to transfer any
7 unclaimed property that has military value to the Department of Veterans Services
8 upon its request. (NRS 120A.610) This bill expands the entities to which the
9 Director is authorized to transfer abandoned or unclaimed property and expands the
10 type of abandoned or unclaimed property that the Director is required to take
11 possession of for safekeeping to property with historical value. This bill also
12 authorizes the Director to destroy or otherwise dispose of such property that is not
13 transferred and requires the Director to establish and post on the Internet website of
14 the Department the Department’s internal policy for such destruction or disposal.



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

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 417.090 **1.** The Director and the Deputy Director shall:
3 ~~1-1~~ **(a)** Assist veterans, and those presently serving in the
4 military and naval forces of the United States who are residents of
5 the State of Nevada, their wives, widows, widowers, husbands,
6 children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal
7 representatives, in preparing, submitting and presenting any claim
8 against the United States, or any state, for adjusted compensation,
9 hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability compensation,
10 vocational training, education or rehabilitation and assist them in
11 obtaining any aid or benefit to which they may, from time to time,
12 be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any of the
13 states.
14 ~~1-2~~ **(b)** Aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every
15 nationally recognized service organization insofar as the activities of
16 such organizations are for the benefit of veterans, servicemen and
17 servicewomen.
18 ~~1-3~~ **(c)** Give aid, assistance and counsel to each and every
19 problem, question and situation, individual as well as collective,
20 affecting any veteran, serviceman or servicewoman, or their
21 dependents, or any group of veterans, servicemen and
22 servicewomen, when in their opinion such comes within the scope
23 of this chapter.
24 ~~1-4~~ **(d)** Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.
25 ~~1-5~~ **(e)** Serve as a clearinghouse and disseminate information
26 relating to veterans' benefits.
27 ~~1-6~~ **(f)** Conduct any studies which will assist veterans to obtain
28 compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability
29 compensation, vocational training, education, rehabilitation or any
30 other benefit to which veterans may be entitled under the laws of the
31 United States or of any state.
32 ~~1-7~~ **(g)** Aid, assist and cooperate with the office of coordinator
33 of services for veterans created in a county pursuant to
34 NRS 244.401.
35 ~~1-8~~ **(h)** Pay to each county that creates the office of coordinator
36 of services for veterans, from state money available to him or her, a
37 portion of the cost of operating the office in an amount determined
38 by the Director.
39 ~~1-9~~ **(i)** Take possession of any abandoned or unclaimed artifacts
40 or other property that has military *or historical* value for
41 safekeeping. The Director ~~for Deputy Director~~ may ~~transfer~~ :



1 (1) *Transfer* such *an artifact or other* property to ~~†~~
2 ~~veterans' or military museum.~~
3 ~~—10.† :~~

4 (I) *The Nevada State Museum or the Nevada Historical*
5 *Society, upon its written request, if the artifact or other property*
6 *has, in the opinion of the requesting institution, historical value*
7 *and is worthy of preservation; or*

8 (II) *Any other governmental agency or nonprofit entity,*
9 *including, without limitation, a veterans' organization and the*
10 *United States Department of Veterans Affairs, upon its written*
11 *request, if the artifact or other property was not requested by the*
12 *Nevada State Museum or the Nevada Historical Society; or*

13 (2) *Destroy or otherwise dispose of the artifact or other*
14 *property.*

15 *↪ An action may not be maintained by any person against the*
16 *holder or former holder of an artifact or other property because of*
17 *the transfer, destruction or other disposal of the artifact or other*
18 *property pursuant to this paragraph.*

19 (j) Develop plans and programs to assist veterans who have
20 suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military
21 training.

22 2. *The Director shall:*

23 (a) *Establish an internal policy for guidance to employees of*
24 *the Department regarding the transfer, destruction or other*
25 *disposal of artifacts and other property pursuant to paragraph (i)*
26 *of subsection 1; and*

27 (b) *Post the policy on the Internet website maintained by the*
28 *Department.*

29 **Sec. 2.** NRS 244.406 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 244.406 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the
31 office of coordinator of services for veterans must be supported
32 from money in the county general fund and from any gifts or grants
33 received by the county for the support of the office.

34 2. The board of county commissioners of a county that creates
35 the office of coordinator of services for veterans is authorized to
36 accept funds from the Director of the Department of Veterans
37 Services pursuant to *paragraph (h) of* subsection ~~†~~ *1* of NRS
38 417.090 for the support of the office.

39 3. The board of county commissioners of a county that creates
40 the office of coordinator of services for veterans may enter into an
41 agreement with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the
42 Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of
43 obtaining federal matching funds to contribute to the salaries and
44 expenses of the office of coordinator of services for veterans for its
45 activities which are reasonably related to the programs of the



- 1 Division of Public and Behavioral Health and which benefit or
- 2 result in cost avoidance for the Division.
- 3 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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