

CHAPTER.....

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:

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

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

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

Section 1. NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:
417.090 ***1.*** The Director and the Deputy Director shall:

~~1-1~~ ***(a)*** Assist veterans, and those presently serving in the military and naval forces of the United States who are residents of the State of Nevada, their wives, widows, widowers, husbands, children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives, in preparing, submitting and presenting any claim against the United States, or any state, for adjusted compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training, education or rehabilitation and assist them in obtaining any aid or benefit to which they may, from time to time, be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any of the states.

~~1-1~~ ***(b)*** Aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every nationally recognized service organization insofar as the activities of such organizations are for the benefit of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen.



~~13.1~~ (c) Give aid, assistance and counsel to each and every problem, question and situation, individual as well as collective, affecting any veteran, serviceman or servicewoman, or their dependents, or any group of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen, when in their opinion such comes within the scope of this chapter.

~~14.1~~ (d) Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.

~~15.1~~ (e) Serve as a clearinghouse and disseminate information relating to veterans' benefits.

~~16.1~~ (f) Conduct any studies which will assist veterans to obtain compensation, hospitalization, insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training, education, rehabilitation or any other benefit to which veterans may be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any state.

~~17.1~~ (g) Aid, assist and cooperate with the office of coordinator of services for veterans created in a county pursuant to NRS 244.401.

~~18.1~~ (h) Pay to each county that creates the office of coordinator of services for veterans, from state money available to him or her, a portion of the cost of operating the office in an amount determined by the Director.

~~19.1~~ (i) Take possession of any abandoned or unclaimed artifacts or other property that has military *or historical* value for safekeeping. The Director ~~for Deputy Director~~ may ~~transfer~~ :

~~(1) Transfer such an artifact or other property to ~~a veterans' or military museum.~~~~

~~—10.1 :~~

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

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

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

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



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

2. The Director shall:

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

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

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

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

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

3. The board of county commissioners of a county that creates the office of coordinator of services for veterans may enter into an agreement with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of obtaining federal matching funds to contribute to the salaries and expenses of the office of coordinator of services for veterans for its activities which are reasonably related to the programs of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health and which benefit or result in cost avoidance for the Division.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

