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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 309—ASSEMBLYMEN MANENDO, KOIVISTO, MCCLAIN, CHOWNING, OHRENSCHALL, ANDERSON, ANDONOV, ATKINSON, BUCKLEY, CHRISTENSEN, COLLINS, CONKLIN, GOICOECHEA, GOLDWATER, GRADY, GRIFFIN, HARDY, KNECHT, OCEGUERA, PIERCE AND WILLIAMS

MARCH 13, 2003

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Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Requires judicial districts in larger counties to establish educational seminar for separating parents who are parties in domestic relations matters involving children. (BDR 1-60)

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

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1)  
(REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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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 domestic relations; requiring judicial districts in larger counties to establish an educational seminar for separating parents who are parties in domestic relations matters involving children; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

- 1     **Section 1.** Chapter 3 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2     thereto a new section to read as follows:  
3     ***1. Each judicial district that includes a county whose***  
4     ***population is 400,000 or more shall establish, by rules approved by***  
5     ***the Supreme Court, a mandatory seminar for separating parents***  
6     ***who are parties in a domestic relations matter filed pursuant to***  
7     ***chapter 125, 125A, 125C or 126 of NRS in which the interests of a***  
8     ***child under the age of 18 years are involved.***  
9     ***2. The rules must:***



- 1       (a) *Require that, except as otherwise provided in this section,*  
2 *the seminar be successfully completed by the parents within 45*  
3 *days after service of the initial complaint or petition.*
- 4       (b) *Require that the seminar be presented in the community by*  
5 *seminar providers who are approved by the district court. Seminar*  
6 *providers who are approved by the district court must enter into an*  
7 *interlocal agreement for educational services with the district*  
8 *court before providing seminar services.*
- 9       (c) *Establish the minimum educational requirements for*  
10 *seminar presenters, including, without limitation, the requirement*  
11 *that a seminar presenter must attend at least three in-service*  
12 *seminars of continuing education annually. The rules must ensure*  
13 *that a seminar presenter understands the emotional and*  
14 *developmental needs of children whose parents are separating.*
- 15       (d) *Provide that a district court may, upon a showing of good*  
16 *cause, excuse the parties in a matter from attending the seminar.*  
17 *For the purposes of this paragraph, a showing of good cause*  
18 *includes, without limitation, a showing that:*
  - 19           (1) *One of the parties resides outside of the jurisdiction of*  
20 *the court;*
  - 21           (2) *The youngest child of the parties will be 18 years of age*  
22 *within 6 months;*
  - 23           (3) *The parties have resolved their custodial matters by*  
24 *stipulation; or*
  - 25           (4) *The parties have successfully completed the seminar*  
26 *during the 3-year period immediately preceding the filing of the*  
27 *complaint or petition.*
- 28       (e) *Provide that the court administrator or his designee:*
  - 29           (1) *Is responsible for the administration of the seminar and*  
30 *all matters concerning the seminar; and*
  - 31           (2) *May establish a sliding schedule of fees for*  
32 *participation in the seminar based on the ability of a party to pay.*
- 33       (f) *Provide that the district court may waive any fees if a party*  
34 *demonstrates financial hardship.*
- 35       **Sec. 2.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any  
36 additional expense of a local government that is related to the  
37 provisions of this act.
- 38       **Sec. 3.** The amendatory provisions of this act apply to any  
39 action, suit or proceeding filed on or after October 1, 2003.

