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ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18—COMMITTEE  
ON JUDICIARY

MAY 1, 2003

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Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim study of juvenile justice system in Nevada. (BDR R-1285)

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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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ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of the juvenile justice system in Nevada.

- 1 WHEREAS, The juvenile court system was created in the United  
2 States in the early 20th century on the philosophy that children are  
3 inherently different from adults and that states should take on the  
4 responsibility of protecting and rehabilitating young offenders; and  
5 WHEREAS, The fundamental difference between the juvenile  
6 justice system and the criminal justice system is that rehabilitation is  
7 considered to be the primary goal for young offenders and, despite  
8 actual declines in youth crime rates, research indicates an increasing  
9 emphasis on punishment and detention and a decreasing emphasis  
10 on treatment and rehabilitation; and  
11 WHEREAS, Institutionalization of young offenders has proven  
12 expensive and Nevada spends an average of \$95 to \$105 per day, or  
13 almost \$40,000 per year, on each such offender, which is more than  
14 four times the cost of full-time enrollment at a state university for 1  
15 year; and  
16 WHEREAS, Serious concerns have been raised regarding the  
17 resources available to rehabilitate young offenders and the quality of  
18 supervision and treatment of such youth in state juvenile  
19 correctional facilities; and  
20 WHEREAS, The Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to  
21 Study the System of Juvenile Justice in Nevada (A.C.R. 13, Statutes  
22 of Nevada 1999) identified numerous areas of concern and  
23 recommended that the 2001 Legislature create a statutory committee



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1 to continue its study of the juvenile justice system, but this  
2 committee was not created; and

3 WHEREAS, Because the Legislature is responsible for funding  
4 the State's juvenile justice system and addressing the needs of  
5 young offenders, continued study of the juvenile justice system will  
6 assist the Legislature in making informed decisions concerning such  
7 funding and care; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
9 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby  
10 directed to appoint a committee consisting of three members of the  
11 Assembly and three members of the Senate who are representative  
12 of the various geographical areas of this state to conduct an interim  
13 study of the juvenile justice system in Nevada; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation,  
15 consideration of:

16 1. A coordinated continuum of care wherein a broad array of  
17 community-based program and service options are combined to  
18 ensure that health services, substance abuse treatment, education,  
19 training and care are compatible with each youth's specific needs;

20 2. Individualized supervision, care and treatment to  
21 accommodate the individual needs and potential of the youth and his  
22 family, and treatment programs which integrate such youth into  
23 situations of living and interacting that are consistent with a healthy,  
24 stable and family-like environment;

25 3. Aftercare and reintegration wherein youth continue to  
26 receive the support of treatment services following their active  
27 rehabilitation in a facility to prevent the relapse or regression of  
28 progress achieved during the recovery process;

29 4. Overrepresentation and disparate treatment of minority  
30 youth in the juvenile justice system, including a review of the  
31 various places where bias may influence decisions concerning  
32 minority youth;

33 5. Gender specific services, including programs that consider  
34 female development in their design and implementation and that  
35 address girls' needs, including victimization and abuse issues,  
36 substance abuse, mental health and educational needs, and  
37 vocational and skills training that may provide a meaningful life and  
38 livable wage following release;

39 6. Quality of care in state facilities, including staff  
40 qualifications and training, documentation of agency and facility  
41 performance, coordination and collaboration of agencies,  
42 availability of services relating to mental health, substance abuse,  
43 education, vocational training, and treatment of sexual offenders and  
44 violent offenders, and the feasibility and necessity for independent  
45 monitoring of state facilities; and



1       7. Programs utilized by different states such as Missouri which  
2 has developed a system of community-based residential and non-  
3 residential programs that allow young offenders to be placed in  
4 more specialized programs according to their needs and which has  
5 produced recidivism rates as low as 11 percent; and be it further  
6       RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the  
7 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the  
8 Assembly and a majority of the members of the Senate appointed to  
9 the committee; and be it further  
10       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a  
11 report of the results of the study and any recommendations for  
12 legislation to the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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