

SENATE BILL NO. 287—SENATORS WIENER, RAWSON, NEAL,
CEGAVSKE, MATHEWS, NOLAN AND WASHINGTON

MARCH 13, 2003

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Establishes Arthritis Prevention and Control Program to increase public awareness of and educate persons on matters relating to arthritis. (BDR 40-596)

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

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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 public health; establishing the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program within the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources to increase public awareness of, and educate persons on, matters relating to arthritis; establishing the Advisory Committee on the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program to make certain recommendations to the Division; authorizing the receipt of gifts or grants and other sources of money to carry out the Program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

1 WHEREAS, Arthritis encompasses more than 100 diseases and
2 conditions that affect joints, the surrounding tissues of joints and
3 other connective tissues; and

4 WHEREAS, Arthritis is one of the most common families of
5 diseases in the United States because it affects nearly one in every
6 six persons in the United States and will impact an estimated 60
7 million people, or 20 percent of the population of the United States,
8 by the year 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the
10 United States and limits the daily activities of more than 7 million
11 persons in this nation; and



1 WHEREAS, Arthritis has a significant impact on the quality of
2 life for the person who suffers from the painful symptoms and
3 disabilities associated with the disease and on that person's family
4 members or caregivers; and

5 WHEREAS, The economic and social costs associated with the
6 treatment of arthritis and its complications in the United States are
7 estimated at approximately \$125 billion per year; and

8 WHEREAS, As the population of this state continues to increase
9 rapidly there is a need to deliver effective programs in the State of
10 Nevada for the prevention and reduction of pain or disability
11 associated with arthritis; and

12 WHEREAS, Currently a large quantity of public information and
13 a number of national programs concerning arthritis exist, but such
14 information and programs are inadequately delivered to the public
15 and are insufficient in addressing the needs of certain diverse and
16 underserved populations; and

17 WHEREAS, The Arthritis Foundation, the Centers for Disease
18 Control and Prevention and the Association of State and Territorial
19 Health Officials have led the development of a public health
20 strategy, known as the National Arthritis Action Plan, to respond to
21 concerns relating to persons suffering from arthritis; and

22 WHEREAS, Educating the public, the health care workforce and
23 the communities throughout Nevada about the effects of arthritis is
24 of great importance to the Legislature and the State of Nevada, and
25 it would be in the public interest of all residents of this state to
26 develop and implement programs to promote public awareness of
27 matters relating to arthritis; now, therefore,

28
29 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
30 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

31
32 **Section 1.** Chapter 439 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
33 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this
34 act.

35 **Sec. 2. 1.** *Within the limitations of available funding, the*
36 *Health Division shall establish the Arthritis Prevention and*
37 *Control Program to increase public knowledge and raise public*
38 *awareness relating to arthritis and to educate persons with*
39 *arthritis, their families, health care professionals, providers of*
40 *health care and the public on matters relating to arthritis,*
41 *including, without limitation:*

42 (a) *The causes and nature of arthritis;*

43 (b) *The factors that increase the risk of a person developing*
44 *arthritis and the importance of early diagnosis of arthritis;*

45 (c) *The appropriate treatment of arthritis;*



- 1 (d) *Effective strategies to prevent or delay the development of*
2 *arthritis;*
3 (e) *The prevention and management of pain caused by*
4 *arthritis; and*
5 (f) *Effective interventions to reduce disability and improve the*
6 *quality of life of persons with arthritis.*
7 2. *The Arthritis Prevention and Control Program must be*
8 *established in accordance with the objectives set forth in the*
9 *National Arthritis Action Plan established by the Arthritis*
10 *Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and*
11 *the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.*
12 **Sec. 3.** 1. *Within the limitations of available funding, the*
13 *Health Division shall establish the Advisory Committee on the*
14 *Arthritis Prevention and Control Program established pursuant to*
15 *section 2 of this act to make recommendations to the Health*
16 *Division concerning the Arthritis Prevention and Control*
17 *Program.*
18 2. *The Administrator shall:*
19 (a) *Solicit recommendations for the appointment of members*
20 *to the Advisory Committee on the Arthritis Prevention and Control*
21 *Program from organizations that are representative of a broad*
22 *range of persons with arthritis and organizations interested in the*
23 *issues affecting persons with arthritis; and*
24 (b) *Appoint to the Advisory Committee such members as he*
25 *deems appropriate, including, without limitation, one or more*
26 *persons who are representative of:*
27 (1) *Persons with arthritis;*
28 (2) *Public health care professionals and educators;*
29 (3) *Medical experts on arthritis;*
30 (4) *Providers of health care who provide services related to*
31 *arthritis;*
32 (5) *Persons knowledgeable in promoting and educating the*
33 *public on health issues; and*
34 (6) *National arthritis and other public health organizations*
35 *and their local or state chapters.*
36 3. *After the initial term, the term of each member is 2 years.*
37 *A member may be reappointed.*
38 4. *Members of the Advisory Committee serve without*
39 *compensation, except that each member is entitled, while engaged*
40 *in the business of the Advisory Committee and within the*
41 *limitations of available funding, to the per diem allowance and*
42 *travel expenses provided for state officers and employees*
43 *generally.*
44 5. *A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee*
45 *constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and a*



1 majority of a quorum present at any meeting is sufficient for any
2 official action taken by the Advisory Committee.

3 6. The Advisory Committee shall:

4 (a) At its first meeting and annually thereafter, elect a Chair
5 from among its members; and

6 (b) Meet at the call of the Administrator, the Chair or a
7 majority of its members quarterly or as is necessary, within the
8 budget of the Advisory Committee, to provide the Administrator
9 with appropriate assistance to carry out the Arthritis Prevention
10 and Control Program.

11 **Sec. 4.** To carry out the purposes of the Arthritis Prevention
12 and Control Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act,
13 the Health Division shall, within the limitations of available
14 funding:

15 1. Establish a solid scientific database of the most current
16 information on the prevention of arthritis and related disabilities
17 using information obtained through surveillance, epidemiology
18 and research relating to the prevention of arthritis, and use the
19 database in carrying out the Program;

20 2. Provide educational materials and information on research
21 concerning matters relating to arthritis to persons with arthritis,
22 their families, health care professionals, providers of health care
23 and the public, including, without limitation, materials and
24 information concerning programs and services available to the
25 public and strategies for the prevention and control of arthritis;

26 3. Identify and use educational and training resources and
27 services developed by organizations with appropriate expertise in
28 and knowledge of arthritis, including, without limitation, any
29 available technical assistance;

30 4. Increase awareness about the prevention, detection and
31 treatment of arthritis among state and local governmental officials
32 who are responsible for matters relating to public health, health
33 care professionals, providers of health care and policymakers;

34 5. Coordinate state and local programs and services to reduce
35 the public health burdens that result from arthritis;

36 6. Work to improve the quality of life of persons with arthritis
37 and their families while containing the costs of health care
38 services by providing lasting improvements in the delivery of
39 health care services to persons with arthritis;

40 7. Work with other governmental agencies, national health
41 organizations and their local and state chapters, community and
42 business leaders, community organizations and providers of health
43 care and other persons who provide services to persons with
44 arthritis to:



- 1 (a) *Coordinate the work of the Program with the work of these*
- 2 *agencies, organizations and persons; and*
- 3 (b) *Maximize the resources of state and local governments in*
- 4 *the efforts toward educating the public about arthritis, including,*
- 5 *without limitation, preventing, detecting, managing the pain*
- 6 *caused by, and treating arthritis;*
- 7 8. *Provide sufficient staff from the Health Division and*
- 8 *provide the appropriate training and education for the staff to*
- 9 *administer the Program;*
- 10 9. *Evaluate the need to improve the quality and accessibility*
- 11 *of arthritis services that exist in communities in this state; and*
- 12 10. *Conduct an assessment of the services provided for*
- 13 *persons with arthritis in this state and the public awareness in this*
- 14 *state of issues concerning arthritis, including, without limitation:*
- 15 (a) *Any epidemiological and other research concerning*
- 16 *arthritis being conducted in this state;*
- 17 (b) *Any available technical assistance and educational*
- 18 *materials and programs concerning arthritis that are available*
- 19 *nationwide or within this state;*
- 20 (c) *The level of public awareness and awareness of health care*
- 21 *professionals and providers of health care concerning the*
- 22 *prevention, detection and treatment of arthritis;*
- 23 (d) *The needs of persons with arthritis and their families or*
- 24 *caregivers;*
- 25 (e) *The educational and other needs of providers of health*
- 26 *care who provide services to persons with arthritis;*
- 27 (f) *The services and education available to persons with*
- 28 *arthritis, including, without limitation, services for the treatment*
- 29 *and management of arthritis;*
- 30 (g) *Any program or services that improve the quality of life,*
- 31 *lower health care costs and expand the physical capabilities of*
- 32 *those affected by arthritis; and*
- 33 (h) *The existence of services for the rehabilitation of persons*
- 34 *with arthritis.*
- 35 **Sec. 5. 1. The Health Division may:**
- 36 (a) *Within the limitations of available funding, enter into*
- 37 *contracts for any services necessary to carry out or assist the*
- 38 *Health Division in carrying out sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this*
- 39 *act, with public or private entities that have the appropriate*
- 40 *expertise to provide such services;*
- 41 (b) *Apply for and accept any gift, donation, bequest, grant or*
- 42 *other source of money to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to*
- 43 *5, inclusive, of this act; and*
- 44 (c) *Apply for any waiver from the Federal Government that*
- 45 *may be necessary to maximize the amount of money this state may*



1 *obtain from the Federal Government to carry out the provisions of*
2 *sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.*

3 2. *Any money the Health Division receives pursuant to*
4 *subsection 1 or that is appropriated to carry out the provisions of*
5 *sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act:*

6 (a) *Must be deposited in the State Treasury and accounted for*
7 *separately in the State General Fund;*

8 (b) *May only be used to carry out those provisions; and*

9 (c) *Does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any*
10 *fiscal year.*

11 3. *The Administrator shall administer the account. Any*
12 *interest or income earned on the money in the account must be*
13 *credited to the account. Any claims against the account must be*
14 *paid as other claims against the State are paid.*

15 **Sec. 6.** As soon as practicable after the Health Division of the
16 Department of Human Resources establishes the Advisory
17 Committee on the Arthritis Prevention and Control Program
18 pursuant to section 3 of this act, the Administrator of the Health
19 Division shall appoint to the Advisory Committee:

20 1. To the extent feasible, half of its members to serve initial
21 terms of 2 years; and

22 2. The remainder of its members to serve initial terms of
23 4 years.

24 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.

