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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 421—COMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

MARCH 25, 2021

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Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

**SUMMARY**—Establishes the preferred method of referring to persons with certain conditions in the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. (BDR 17-1037)

**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.

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AN ACT relating to persons with certain conditions; establishing the preferred manner of referring to persons with mental illness and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing in the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law establishes the preferred manner of referring to persons with  
2 physical, mental or cognitive disabilities and persons affected by addictive  
3 disorders in the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code.  
4 (NRS 220.125, 233B.062) This bill establishes the preferred manner of referring to  
5 persons with mental illness and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing in the  
6 Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 220.125 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 220.125 1. The Legislative Counsel shall, to the extent  
3 practicable, ensure that persons with physical, mental or cognitive  
4 disabilities are referred to in Nevada Revised Statutes using  
5 language that is commonly viewed as respectful and sentence



1 structure that refers to the person before referring to his or her  
2 disability as follows:

3 (a) Words and terms that are preferred for use in Nevada  
4 Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “persons with  
5 disabilities,” “persons with mental illness,” “persons with  
6 developmental disabilities,” “persons with intellectual disabilities”  
7 and other words and terms that are structured in a similar manner.

8 (b) Words and terms that are not preferred for use in Nevada  
9 Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “disabled,”  
10 “handicapped,” “mentally disabled,” “mentally ill,” “mentally  
11 retarded” and other words and terms that tend to equate the  
12 disability with the person.

13 2. The Legislative Counsel shall, to the extent practicable,  
14 ensure that terms related to persons affected by addictive disorders  
15 are referred to in Nevada Revised Statutes using language that is  
16 commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that refers to  
17 the person before referring to his or her disorder as follows:

18 (a) Words and terms that are preferred for use in Nevada  
19 Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “addictive disorder,”  
20 “persons with addictive disorders,” “person with an addictive  
21 disorder,” “person with an addictive disorder related to gambling”  
22 and “substance use disorder.”

23 (b) Words and terms that are not preferred for use in Nevada  
24 Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “addict,” “alcoholic,”  
25 “alcohol abuse,” “alcohol abuser,” “alcohol and drug abuser,” “drug  
26 abuse,” “drug addict,” “problem gambler,” “substance abuse” and  
27 “substance abuser.”

28 3. *The Legislative Counsel shall, to the extent practicable,*  
29 *ensure that terms related to persons with mental illness are*  
30 *referred to in Nevada Revised Statutes using language that is*  
31 *commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that refers*  
32 *to the person before referring to his or her illness as follows:*

33 (a) *Words and terms that are preferred for use in Nevada*  
34 *Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “persons with mental*  
35 *illness” and other words and terms that are structured in a similar*  
36 *manner.*

37 (b) *Words and terms that are not preferred for use in Nevada*  
38 *Revised Statutes include, without limitation, “insane” and*  
39 *“insanity.”*

40 4. *The Legislative Counsel shall, to the extent practicable,*  
41 *ensure that terms related to persons who are deaf or hard of*  
42 *hearing are referred to in Nevada Revised Statutes using language*  
43 *that is commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that*  
44 *refers to the person before referring to his or her condition. Words*



1 *and terms that are not preferred for use in Nevada Revised*  
2 *Statutes include, without limitation, “deaf and dumb.”*

3 **Sec. 2.** NRS 233B.062 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 233B.062 1. It is the policy of this State that every regulation  
5 of an agency be made easily accessible to the public and expressed  
6 in clear and concise language. To assist in carrying out this policy:

7 (a) The Attorney General must develop guidelines for drafting  
8 regulations; and

9 (b) Every permanent regulation must be incorporated, excluding  
10 any forms used by the agency, any publication adopted by reference,  
11 the title, any signature and other formal parts, in the Nevada  
12 Administrative Code, and every emergency or temporary regulation  
13 must be distributed in the same manner as the Nevada  
14 Administrative Code.

15 2. It is the policy of this State that:

16 (a) Persons with physical, mental or cognitive disabilities are to  
17 be referred to in the Nevada Administrative Code using language  
18 that is commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that  
19 refers to the person before referring to the person’s disability; ~~and~~

20 (b) Terms related to persons affected by addictive disorders are  
21 referred to in the Nevada Administrative Code using language that  
22 is commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that refers  
23 to the person before referring to his or her disorder ~~;~~;

24 (c) *Terms related to persons with mental illness are referred to*  
25 *in the Nevada Administrative Code using language that is*  
26 *commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that refers*  
27 *to the person before referring to his or her illness; and*

28 (d) *Terms related to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing*  
29 *are referred to in the Nevada Administrative Code using language*  
30 *that is commonly viewed as respectful and sentence structure that*  
31 *refers to the person before referring to his or her condition.*

32 ↪ in the same manner as provided in NRS 220.125 for Nevada  
33 Revised Statutes.

34 3. The Legislative Counsel shall:

35 (a) Include each permanent regulation in the Nevada  
36 Administrative Code; and

37 (b) Distribute in the same manner as the Nevada Administrative  
38 Code each emergency or temporary regulation,

39 ↪ that is required to be adopted pursuant to the provisions of this  
40 chapter and which is adopted by an entity other than an agency.

41 4. The Legislative Commission may authorize inclusion in the  
42 Nevada Administrative Code of the regulations of an agency  
43 otherwise exempted from the requirements of this chapter.

44 **Sec. 3.** The Legislative Counsel shall:



1 1. In preparing the reprint and supplements to Nevada Revised  
2 Statutes in 2021, appropriately change any words and terms in  
3 Nevada Revised Statutes in the manner that the Legislative Counsel  
4 determines necessary to conform those words and terms to the  
5 provisions of NRS 220.125, as amended by section 1 of this act.

6 2. In preparing supplements to the Nevada Administrative  
7 Code, appropriately change any words and terms in the Nevada  
8 Administrative Code in the manner that the Legislative Counsel  
9 determines necessary to conform those words and terms to the  
10 provisions of subsection 2 of NRS 233B.062, as amended by section  
11 2 of this act.

12 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.

