

**Steve Sisolak**  
*Governor*



**Richard Whitley**  
*Director*

State of Nevada  
**Department of Health and  
Human Services**

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Legislative Advocacy – 81<sup>st</sup> (2021) Session

Aging Disability Services Division

Jennifer M. Richards, Esq.



1/13/2021

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



# Agenda

1. NRS 427A Attorney
2. Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS)
3. Tips on Testifying
4. Bills to Watch



# NRS 427A - Attorney

- *Appointed by Governor Sisolak*
- *NRS 427A.123 Attorney for the Rights of Older Persons, Persons With a Physical Disability, an Intellectual Disability or a Related Condition*
  - Provide Education, Advocacy, Technical Assistance
  - Act as Legal Assistance Developer (Older Americans Act)
  - Statewide Guardianship Commission

# Acronyms and Common Terms

- AB – Assembly Bill
- ADSD – Aging and Disability Services Division
- BDR – Bill Draft Request
- LCB – Legislative Counsel Bureau
- NELIS – Nevada
- NRS – Nevada Revised Statute
- SB – Senate Bill
- SCR – Senate Concurrent Resolution



# BDR- Bill Draft Requests

- Bills start as Bill Draft Requests (BDR).
  - They are assigned a BDR number prior to their bill number.
  - Assembly Bills will be prefaced with AB
  - Senate Bills will be prefaced with SB



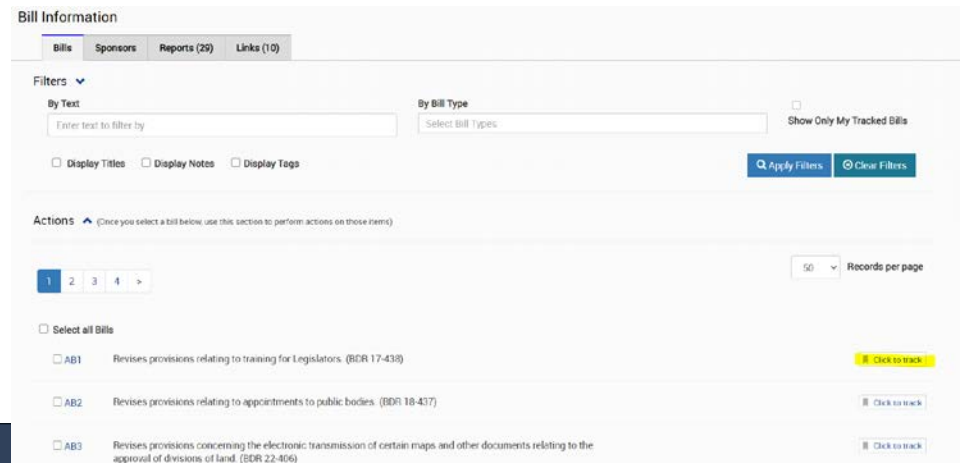
# Accessing NELIS

- [NELIS Home \(state.nv.us\)](https://state.nv.us)
- A website the Nevada Legislature and others use to track all bills currently being addressed during the legislative session.
- Can be personalized to track all pertinent bills to your agency and program

- Can search by tabs



- By clicking the “Click to Track” flag, you’ll automatically be emailed any updates



Monday, January 11, 2021 - The 81st Session will begin on February 1, 2021

Personalized Legislative Tracking

NELIS User Manual



# Adding Notes in NELIS

- This can be personalized by only the bills you are tracking.

Filters ▾

By Text

By Bill Type

Show Only My Tracked Bills

Display Titles  Display Notes  Display Tags

[Apply Filters](#) [Clear Filters](#)

Actions ▲ (Once you select a bill below, use this section to perform actions on those items)

1  Records per page

Select all Bills

<input type="checkbox"/> AB39	Revises provisions relating to public records. (BDR 19-333)	<a href="#">Tracking</a> <a href="#">My Tags</a> <a href="#">My Notes</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> AB62	Revises provisions relating to the Nevada ABLE Savings Program. (BDR 38-397)	<a href="#">Tracking</a> <a href="#">My Tags</a> <a href="#">My Notes</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> AB73	Revises provisions relating to the licensure of dietitians. (BDR 54-250)	

- Notes can also be added for bills you are tracking. These are personalized and can be removed.

Notes for AB39

Note for this Bill | Notes for this Bill's Tags

Use this text box to enter your note for this Bill. You can make notes on this Bill's Tags in the next tab.

[Remove Note](#) [Cancel](#) [Save Changes & Close](#)



# Testifying Pro, Con, Neutral

- Pro: You favor the bill exactly as it is written in its entirety
- Con: You oppose the bill,, or you want to make an amendment to the bill
- Neutral: Default position and often used by the agency unless special authorization is given to testify Pro or Con







# Legislation to Watch



# SCR 1 – Racism as a Public Health Crisis

- Urging certain actions to address the public health crisis caused by systemic racism and greatly magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic in Nevada
  - Nearly 49 % of Nevada’s population is represented by persons of color, including persons who are Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander and persons of more than one racial or ethnic background
  - The pandemic has disproportionately affected BIPOC communities
  - Nevada supports local, state, regional and federal initiatives to understand, address and dismantle systemic racism and its impact on the delivery of human and social services, economic development and public safety



# BDR 54-386 – Sign Language Interpreters

- Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans, Adults with Special Needs (NRS 218E.750)
- Revises provisions relating to sign language interpreters
  - Educational Interpreter
  - Community Interpreter
- [Full Presentation: Nevada Sign Language Interpreter Standards \(state.nv.us\)](http://state.nv.us)

# Registration Types

## Educational Interpreter

Any communication for the purpose of providing K – 12 education.

Includes public, private, and charter schools.

### Dual registration:

An individual who meets the credentialing requirements for Educational Interpreter and Community Interpreter may register as both.

## Community Interpreter

Any communication that is not K – 12 educational.

Examples include:

- Healthcare
- Legal
- Government
- Postsecondary education
- Performing arts
- Employment

# Proposed NRS Changes for Educational Interpreters

Current Law	Impact	Proposed NRS Change
<p>Low credentialing requirement for educational interpreters (NRS 656A.100)</p>	<p>Deaf and Hard of Hearing children cannot adequately access their education</p>	<p>Increase credentialing requirements for interpreters in the K-12 setting to 4.0. Create provisional status for interpreters with an EIPA score of 3.5 - 3.9.</p>
<p>No time limit for underqualified interpreters</p>	<p>Interpreters who do not meet national best practice standards are not required to improve their skills.</p>	<p>Add a time limit to provisional registration classifications.</p>

# Proposed NRS changes for Community Interpreters

Current Law	Impact	Proposed NRS Change
<p>There are 6 classifications of interpreters and 1 of captioning providers (NRS 656A.100)</p>	<p>Creates confusion about scope of practice and renewal requirements for providers</p>	<p>Remove classification specific language to align with other NRS language and establish specific classifications and requirements by regulation.</p>
<p>No time limit for underqualified interpreters</p>	<p>Interpreters who do not meet national best practice standards are not required to improve their skills.</p>	<p>Add a time limit to provisional registration classifications.</p>
<p>No authority to set qualification requirements for mentors.</p>	<p>Unqualified individuals are providing substandard mentoring to interpreters.</p>	<p>Add authorization for ADSD to set qualifications for mentors.</p>

# BDR 54-603 – Speech Language Pathology, Audiology, Hearing Aids

- Assemblywoman Gorelow
- Revises provisions governing the practice of speech language pathology, audiology and hearing aid dispensing.

# AB062 – ABLE Accounts

- State Treasurer
- Revises provisions relating to the Nevada ABLE Savings Programs
  - For eligibility and resources on ABLE Accounts visit [www.ablenrc.org](http://www.ablenrc.org)



# BDR 3-380 - Vulnerable Adult Protection Orders

- Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans, Adults with Special Needs (NRS 218E.750)
  - Creates a new civil protection order for vulnerable adults
  - Broader than existing domestic violence/stalking protection orders.
  - Full Presentation: [Vulnerable Adult Protection Orders \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov)

# BDR 774 - Accessibility of Elections

- Assemblywoman Cohen
  - Revises provisions governing elections relating to accessibility



# Health Care Bills – Part 1

- 40 BDRs addressing health care
  - Day Health Care Facilities for Veterans (AB76)
  - Training for Unlicensed Caregivers (BDR 40-545)
  - Dentistry (BDR 40-455)
  - Records and Data Collection (SB40, BDR 54-456, BDR 54-457)
  - Health Care Clinic Pilot Program (BDR 710)
  - Makes changes concerning disparities in health care, including disparities related to services to support mental health and emotional well being (BDR 40-62)

# Health Care Bills – Part 2

- Revises administration of programs to assist seniors and persons with disabilities with costs relating to health care and pharmaceutical services (AB35)
- Prescription Drugs
  - 7 Bills
    - Revises provisions concerning prescription drugs - BDR 54-61, BDR 71
    - Purchasing Coalitions for prescription drugs BDR 40-443, Health plan coverage for prescriptions BDR BDR 57-442



# Health Care Bills – Part 3

- Women's Health Care
  - Women's Health Care (BDR 13)
  - Access to feminine hygiene products (BDR 767)
  - State Plan for Medicaid to include coverage for donor breast milk and related products (BDR 38-28)
  - Presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women (BDR 38-130)
  - Medicaid Coverage for doulas (BDR 38-849)



# Medicaid

- Medicaid to cover certain services for persons with a cognitive impairment (BDR 38-385)
- Requires Medicaid coverage of services provided by community health workers (BDR 38-449)

# Links

- NELIS User Manual: [NELIS \(state.nv.us\)](https://state.nv.us/nelis)
- BDR List: [BDR List \(state.nv.us\)](https://state.nv.us/bdr)



# Questions?







# Contact Information

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