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Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

Nevada Legislature 101

Aging and Disability Services Division

Cheyenne Pasquale

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Department of Health and Human Services

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



Agenda

- 1) From Idea to Law
- 2) Legislative Process – Key Milestones
- 3) Getting Involved in the Process





Let's Start with an Idea...

Concept

- What is the problem?
- Who needs to be involved?

Research

- What is already in place?
- How can the problem be solved?

Solutions

- How can change happen?
- What resources are needed?



Budget vs. Policy Solutions

- Budget Solutions

- Staff
- Equipment/Technology
- Direct Services

- Policy Solutions

- Internal Policy change
- Regulation change
- Law change



Agency Actions

- Budget Request – agency request to support operations.
 - Final budget presented to Legislature is approved by the Governor
- Internal policy changes – change procedures or policies as long as they do not conflict with state or federal law.
- Regulations – specific rules or directives to carry out law. Can only be changed during the interim session.
 - Known as Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).
 - Not every law requires a regulation.



Legislative Actions

- Two Key Actions:
 - Approve the state budget
 - Set new laws (or update existing)
- Bill Draft Request – a short synopsis of a proposed bill. Typically 1 -2 sentences.
 - Agency – a concept that is proposed by an Executive branch agency.
 - Committee – a concept that is sponsored by one of the interim committees of the legislature.
 - Legislator – a concept that is sponsored by one or more Legislators.
- Bill – full text of the proposed changes to Nevada law.
 - Full text of the proposed bill.
 - Amendments – shows changes to the bill as it goes through the legislative process.
 - Fiscal Notes – financial impact of the bill.



Key Milestones – Legislative Session

- Nevada Legislature meets for 120 days every odd year
 - Exception – special session
 - First day - first Monday of February
 - Last day - early June
- Every Bill must pass through both houses (Senate & Assembly) within certain deadlines
 - First house passage – typically April
 - Second house passage – typically May
 - Each bill has to be presented at least 3 times in each house
 - Committee Introduction
 - Committee Work Session
 - House Vote



Preparing for Next Session

- Ideas (from slide 3) – June 2025 to December 2025
 - A great time for conversations with state agencies and other research
- Interim Committees – October 2025 to August 2026
- BDR Watch – September 2026 to March 2027
- Legislative Session – February 2027 to June 2027



Getting Involved

Opportunities to share your opinion



Following Bills

- NELIS – Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System
 - Pronounced like the Airforce Base – NELLIS
 - Hub for all information related to BDRs and Bills
- Follow Bills
 - Identify assigned committees
 - Identify meetings – past and upcoming
 - View text and amendments (and fiscal notes)
 - See votes and all history



Attend a Meeting

- Watch meetings online or in-person
 - Links will be available in NELIS
 - Be sure to request accommodations in advance
- Provide Public Comment – during the open period called by the Chair.
 - In-person, online, or over the telephone
 - Normally a 2-3 minute time limit
- Alternative...submit written comments via email



Questions?



Contact Information

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