



83rd SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE 2025

Summary of Legislative Outcomes

The 2025 Legislative Session began at a rapid pace, with NACO staff actively advocating for county priorities throughout the 120-day period. Vinson and Jennifer remained involved in the legislative process on a full-time basis, engaging in issues ranging from elections to natural resources. Amy, NACO's Health and Human Services Manager, coordinated the legislative committee for the Nevada Association of County Human Service Administrators and collaborated with county public health professionals to ensure timely updates on key legislation. A section dedicated to legislation that impacted County Health and Human Services has been included in this Summary of Legislative Outcomes and can be found starting on Page 7. Meanwhile, Amanda diligently monitored legislative committee schedules and invested considerable time each week preparing the NACO bill tracker.

The NACO Legislative Committee met weekly and provided critical input to NACO staff. NACO worked closely with County Commissioners, county staff, as well as individual county lobbyists throughout the session. This session NACO reviewed over 1,200 bills and actively tracked almost half of those, with over 400 bills having some impact on counties and local government. While the legislation we monitored was connected to county operations, administration, authority, and finances, the main themes of session leaned toward election reforms and changes to healthcare. With direction from the Board of Directors and the Legislative Committee, NACO took positions of support, neutrality, or opposition on various bills, while also closely tracking others. The NACO team prioritized collaboration with the individual county lobbyists to oppose bills with potential negative impacts. Through engagement with bill sponsors, committee chairs, and legislative leadership, we were able to draft amendments that either reduced or eliminated potential impacts for counties. As a result, NACO was able to change from opposition to neutral or monitoring positions on some of the most concerning bills, many of which ultimately did not pass.

NACO played a critical role in shaping and amending legislation that directly affected counties, including bills related to local elected official salaries, election administration, unfunded mandates, public health infrastructure, and impacts of economic development on county infrastructure and services. Throughout the process, NACO concentrated on preserving county authority and reducing fiscal burdens on local governments.

The 2025 Legislative Session brought a significant increase in bill volume, with over 200 more measures introduced than in 2023. In response, NACO remained highly engaged and vigilant, working to quickly and diligently analyze impacts and share information with our members. Amid significant budget constraints at the state level, there is heightened fiscal uncertainty for local governments—particularly urban counties, which face the greatest risk of fiscal exposure. These challenges raised serious concerns about potential unfunded mandates, revenue shifts, and increased service demands. However, through proactive engagement, strategic advocacy, and collaboration, NACO and its member counties were able to mitigate many of the most concerning proposals. As a result, despite the difficult fiscal environment, the final outcomes for local governments were ultimately more favorable than initially anticipated.

NACO Sponsored Bills:

NACO sponsored four bills this session, two successfully passed both chambers unanimously and were signed by the Governor:

AB14 - Requires County elected officials to be registered to vote in addition to being qualified electors.

AB70 Allows Counties a portion of cost recovery for renewable energy projects that occur on federal lands.

Unfortunately, the other two NACO bills, **SB65**, which would have made an addition to NRS Chapter 259 to clarify that certain records of a Medical Examiner or Coroner are public records, and **SB73**, which would have required county and city clerks to allow anyone to inspect registered voter signatures yet, would have prohibited clerks from providing or allowing a copy of the registered voter signature; were not granted hearings in their committees of reference and therefore failed the first legislative deadline of session.

However, NACO was heavily involved in the passage of a bill that will modernize the salary structure for elected county officers, whose pay has been frozen since FY 2018–2019. Recognizing the need to better align compensation with market rates, the bill adjusts base salaries in an attempt to retain and attract qualified and dedicated community leaders. NACO has distributed a **guidance document** to County finance staff to assist in the implementation ahead of the July 1st effective date.

SB116 - Addresses local elected official salary and compensation.

Budget

The State budget impacts counties in a number of ways, mainly through assessments to counties for various State functions. Counties are no stranger to budget challenges in the upcoming fiscal year, and the State had to be prudent with appropriations requests. With that said, the fiscal impacts were minimized through effective advocacy especially by our Urban County membership, who secured appropriations for child welfare, specifically adoption savings and various other programs critical to all counties.

Additionally, NACO advocated for and received a continuation of local funding for public health services in the governor's budget (\$15 million) and indigent defense saw additional funding which NACO will work to make direct in order to mitigate continued impacts from the pre-trial release mandate. Counties will see continued state funding for the China Spring Youth Camp, however due to budget shortfalls in other areas, while the state share increased to cover these, counties will see slight increases to those assessments, while the state share continues to be maintained in line with prior sessions (we did not see additional cuts to that budget line item).

Lastly, given the substantial caseload increases to the populations that counties serve and the increases in providers' rates to maintain availability, assessments from DDHS continue to go up. NACO recently shared The Department of Health and Human Services final list of each county's assessments for the 26/27 biennium, and we will be hosting roundtables with county fiscal staff, human service administrators, along with county management and Medicaid to better understand those increases.

The budget picture, once bleak, was mitigated by effective county advocacy by NACO, and our county partners ~ especially our urban partners, with counties coming out looking better than originally feared at the start of the 120-day legislative session.

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**Below is a summary of all the actions that counties must take as a result of passed legislation, and key bills that may impact county operations.** Also attached is the NACO bill tracker, which includes the outcome of each bill that NACO tracked.

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BILLS THAT PERTAIN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR REQUIRE COUNTY ACTION

Italics indicate actions that counties must take; text in purple indicate actions that county elected officials must take and/or notes from NACO.

AB10 – Expands the definition of a “neighborhood improvement project” to include improvements to water or sewer systems owned by common-interest communities; prohibits the dissolution of a neighborhood improvement project that improves a water or sewer system but does allow local governments greater authority to proceed with these improvements by removing some notice and public hearing requirements that typically apply. **NACO supported this measure, as it will provide flexibility to local governments.**

AB28 – Extends the deadline for the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada to submit recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on additional gross receipts tax of any retailer for the sale of certain tangible personal property sold at retail, from 2024 to 2028.

AB39 – Designates colleges, universities, and local governments that sponsor charter schools as local educational agencies, eliminating the need for agreements with the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA).

AB43 - Establishes a permanent program allowing certain public bodies in Clark County, including the major cities, to use job order contracting for minor public works projects. Requiring that at least 25% of workers be apprentices or graduates of an apprenticeship program.

AB55 - Updates procedures for investigating fatal vehicle crashes, ***requires coroners to test for both alcohol and commonly misused substances***, without a strict time limit for collecting blood samples or reporting results.

AB59 - Expands wildlife protection law by broadening the prohibition on feeding wild mammals and baiting game birds, and by increasing civil penalties for unlawfully killing or possessing moose, now classified as trophy big game.

AB69 - Removes the scheduled expiration date of the Nye County Sales and Use Tax Act of 2007, ***allows Nye County to continue levying a sales and use tax beyond October 1, 2027.***

AB76 - Establishes a standardized definition of “local governmental jurisdiction” for the purposes of governing medical and adult use of cannabis.

AB92 - ***Requires that certain public buildings be made available without charge to state or county central committees of major political parties for meetings*** of any purpose in presidential election years and for precinct meetings in other years.

AB93 - Expands the definition of “police officer” under the Nevada Occupational Diseases Act to include school police officers, juvenile probation officers, municipal court bailiffs and deputy marshals, city/town marshals and deputy marshals, and all Category I, II, and III peace officers.

AB96 - ***Requires Clark and Washoe Counties to include a heat mitigation plan in their master plans.***

AB97 - ***Requires criminal justice agencies or any agency dealing with crime to maintain and submit records through the National Incident-Based Reporting System.***

AB104 - Establishes the Nevada Conservation and Recreation Program in statute, which includes a grant program and the Nevada Voluntary Water Rights Retirement Program—designed to retire groundwater rights through purchases or donations until June 30, 2035.

AB108 - Appropriates \$250,000 in fiscal years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 from the State General Fund to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program Account to support the Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program. ***NACO supported this legislation.***

AB111 - Makes it a misdemeanor for anyone who crosses any dividing space, barrier or section of a divided highway.

AB114 - Revises the appointment and leadership selection process for the Washoe County fair and recreation board.

AB123 - Prohibits threatening or intimidating a candidate for public office in a way that reasonably causes fear of harm to the candidate or their family or property.

AB125 - ***Requires the schedule of meetings of public bodies to be posted on the location on the official website of the State that is maintained by the Department of Administration.***

AB128 - Creates the Public Records Task Force to study and evaluate issues related to public records requests. ***NACO participated in the stakeholder meetings where the amended version of this bill was agreed upon. NACO, or a county, is named as one of the Government representatives of the Task Force.***

AB133 - ***Establishes a technology improvement fund from unclaimed sale proceeds in the Office of the County Treasurer.***

AB136 - ***Requires local governments to ensure commercial establishments interacting with live animals post mandated signage with the local animal control authority's phone number.***

AB142 - Expands the definition of “first responder” under state’s industrial insurance law to include civilian employees of law enforcement agencies whose primary duties involve responding to and investigating crime scenes and allows employees to receive compensation for stress-related mental injuries caused by traumatic events witnessed on the job.

AB148 – Changes the deadlines for distributing mail and sample ballots to registered voters. ***Requires sample ballots to be sent before the mail ballot deadline for each election type, including special elections and city incorporation votes.***

AB167 - Enhances oversight of corrective room restriction for detained children by ***requires facility staff to conduct a review every 24 hours if the restriction exceeds one day.***

AB197 - Strengthens privacy protections for individuals associated with nonprofit organizations by ***prohibiting governmental entities from collecting, disclosing, or requiring personal information that identifies a person as a donor, member, or volunteer,*** with certain exceptions.

AB198 - Establishes safety, licensing, and operational requirements for businesses and operators of inflatable recreational devices (e.g., bounce houses, inflatable slides) and ***allows local governments to adopt additional regulations and penalties related to inflatable device safety.***

AB211 - Establishes new enforcement mechanisms for ensuring habitability in residential multifamily rental properties and ***allows local governments to order repairs when such properties violate health, safety, or building codes and endanger residents.*** **NACO provided support for the legislation.**

AB241 - ***Requires local governments to adopt ordinances allowing multifamily or mixed-use residential developments by-right on commercially zoned land,*** overrides conflicting local rules and provides legal timelines for challenges.

AB249 - Allows the Fiscal Analysis Division to grant local governments up to 7 extra days to submit fiscal notes if more research is needed. **NACO submitted the amendment that added the local government extension.**

AB262 - Allows election board officers, counting board officers, and trainees to volunteer without compensation if they choose.

AB263 - ***Requires Clark County to notify the Department of Transportation before clearing homeless encampments near state-controlled roadways, for the purpose of allowing the Department to participate in encampment clean up, if needed.***

AB301 - Updates recordkeeping requirements for general improvement districts, requires online publication of financial documents, increases board compensation, and mandates annual reports for certain districts. Additionally, revises rules for issuing and transferring low-income housing tax credits by shortening application deadlines and expanding eligibility for land acquisition and credit transfers.

AB325 - ***Requires state and local emergency management plans to include safeguards that prohibit final emergency response decisions, including resource allocation and utility shutdowns, from being made solely by artificial intelligence, ensuring human oversight.***

AB333 - Terminates the existing lease of state-owned land to Washoe County and replaces it with a new lease agreement for the portion used as a county public building complex.

AB367 - Allows voters with physical disabilities to use mobile devices for interpretive services, including American Sign Language, when voting. Requires the Secretary of State to post voting materials online in multiple languages, establish a toll-free number for language assistance, and hire a language access coordinator.

AB375 - ***Authorizes local governments to allow food establishments to sell and deliver sealed alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption*** and allows qualified distillers to import neutral spirits and manufacture additional quantities of exclusive spirits for export. Finally, it designates Picon Punch as Nevada's official state drink.

AB377 - **Allows County assessors to accept property value declaration forms from the Recorder's Office.** Requires the Nevada Tax Commission to update the form to include options for claiming property tax abatements on primary residences or qualified rental properties and prohibits charging a fee to record the form. **NACO provided guidance and support for this legislation.**

AB380 – Revises the law on the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and mobile crisis teams by removing location restrictions and broadening who can establish such teams, requires at least one behavioral health professional and may include law enforcement, EMS providers, community health workers, or peer recovery support providers. **NACO supported this legislation.**

AB381 - Refines the definitions of "cruelty" and "torture," increases penalties for severe offenses, and expands protections for animals, while also authorizing temporary restraining orders in animal cruelty cases.

AB396 - ***Requires Clark and Washoe Counties to adopt ordinances by July 1, 2026, allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on residential properties, with limited restrictions. NACO worked extensively on this legislation to reduce burdens to local governments, allow for population caps and keep it to existing ordinances in our urban counties.***

AB415 - Amends existing laws related to the removal of abandoned vehicles and ***allows agencies to affix a notice to abandoned, unregistered vehicles that may be classified as junk, informing the owner that the vehicle will be disposed of if not removed within 7 days.*** **NACO Supported this legislation.**

AB418 - ***Requires counties and cities to adopt ordinances mandating that kennels, animal rescue organizations, and pet-related businesses complete a prescribed pet-handling training course and renew it every two years.***

AB429 - Clarifies that any person or ***governmental entity may create, modify, or otherwise manage a conservation easement in the same manner as other easements, expanding existing authority beyond current exceptions.***

AB439 - ***Allows public and law enforcement agencies to purchase unmanned aerial vehicles or related services from restricted businesses.***

AB444 - ***Removes exemptions for local governments on impact fee and sales tax rule procedures, making noncompliant rules void and unenforceable.***

AB458 - Expands net metering to solar-powered affordable housing, exempts such systems from public utility status, and sets rules for tariffs, contracts, and tenant notifications.

AB462 - Expands the Inland Port Authority Act to include industrial parks, enabling the creation of tax increment areas to fund projects and allowing bond issuance.

AB479 - Amends Nevada law to recognize agrivoltaic purposes—land used for both solar energy production and agricultural activities—as an agricultural use for taxation purposes. **NACO worked extensively on this legislation to hold counties harmless, and Eureka and Churchill Counties supported after the sponsor accepted their amendments.**

AB491 - ***Requires County and city clerks to promptly provide election-related data to the Secretary of State upon request and requires candidates for most state and local elected offices must be registered voters in the relevant jurisdiction as a qualification to hold office.***

AB502 - ***Increases enforcement in public works contracting by expanding reporting requirements, extends apprentice request timelines, revises contractor disqualification periods, creates a Public Works Compliance Division, and imposes penalties for noncompliance, and prohibits public bodies from passing penalties onto contractors.***

AB509 - ***Requires broadband providers, starting July 1, 2026, to enter into agreements with local governments to access public rights-of-way.***

AB518 - Updates State law on the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) clarifying that when the sending state retains or terminates jurisdiction, the receiving state is required to approve and assess placement safety and suitability, and assigns financial responsibility based on placement specifics.

AB530 - *Allows the Clark County Board of Commissioners to continue imposing annual fuel tax increases after January 1, 2027, through a two-thirds board vote via ordinance, rather than requiring voter approval.*

AB540 - Creates the Nevada Attainable Housing Account to support housing for low- to moderate-income residents and creates oversight through the Nevada Attainable Housing Council, sets allocation and reporting requirements, and introduces new income-based housing tiers. It also expands authority for expedited project approval, land use, and developer evaluation for attainable housing.

SB15 - Updates County procedures by removing the August meeting requirement for debt commissions, expands conservation fee uses, clarifies tax sale deadlines, adjusts county office hours, eliminates certain school district reports to counties, and reduces public notice posting requirements for utility franchises.

SB21 - Makes changes to the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation, of which **the NACO Board is required to provide recommendations for one member from a county under 100K in population.**

SB69 - Strengthens oversight and local government involvement in large-scale economic development projects with \$1B+ in capital investment seeking tax abatements or transferable tax credits. **NACO supported this legislation.**

SB120 - Prohibits courts from charging interest or fees for payment plans set up by defendants and bars courts from requiring defendants to repay the cost of a court-appointed attorney, also allows courts to adopt rules for managing payment plans and repeals existing laws that previously allowed recovery of public defender costs from defendants.

SB162 - *Requires any entity receiving state funding to agree to comply with applicable civil rights and employment laws as a condition of accepting the appropriation.*

SB170 - *Mandates that physical exams and annual cancer screenings for non-state executive department employees be conducted by qualified medical professionals and include specific tests.* Screenings are tied to industrial insurance eligibility for lung, heart, and cancer-related occupational diseases.

SB179 - Requires the Nevada Equal Rights Commission to consider whether alleged discriminatory practices in housing, employment, or public accommodations were motivated by antisemitism.

SB183 - Limits child welfare caseworkers providing permanency services to a maximum of 30 children, with exceptions for keeping siblings together or during temporary emergency circumstances under agency policy.

SB191 - Expands authority for municipal courts to designate non-certified individuals to operate sound recording equipment and increases compensation for certain services provided by court reporters in state district courts.

SB196 - Allows heavy equipment rental companies in Nevada to charge up to a 2% recovery fee to offset property taxes, with requirements for transparency, proper fund use, annual reporting, and penalties for misuse or false reporting.

SB208 - Expands the allowed use of 911 emergency service surcharge funds and **permits counties to use these funds for costs related to constructing, maintaining, or operating facilities that house emergency call systems.**

SB210 - Increases various service fees charged by sheriffs and constables in Nevada, including fees for serving legal documents, mileage, executing writs, issuing certificates of sale, and related tasks.

SB241 - Limits juvenile probation to 18 months total regardless of offenses, permits ending probation despite unpaid restitution with civil judgments for the balance, and requires a hearing before detaining a child for probation violations, similar to parole procedures.

SB273 - *Expands existing law to allow civilian employees who support law enforcement agencies, as well as firefighters and retired firefighters, to obtain court orders to keep their personal information confidential in public records and authorizes these groups to request an alternate address on their driver's license or ID.*

SB285 - *Requires apprenticeship programs covering multiple construction trades to have separate standards for each trade but allows existing non-compliant standards approved before October 1, 2025, to remain in use until updated or voided.*

SB320 - Expands the 20-foot no stopping, standing, or parking rule to include unmarked crosswalks, *lets local authorities increase this distance with proper signage for safety, and phases in full enforcement by law enforcement officers starting January 1, 2027, after a warning-only period through the end of 2026.*

SB325 - *Allows counties and cities to establish programs waiving adoption fees for veterans, law enforcement officers, and first responders, with limits on one animal per person every six months.*

SB421 - *Requires County clerks or elections officials to staff election polling locations within the boundaries of an Indian Tribe regardless of a tribe requesting them.*

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## **NACO Health & Human Services Legislative Update**

### **Overview**

The 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature brought significant structural changes to the state's health and human services system, most notably through a comprehensive reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The restructuring established a standalone Nevada Health Authority and a separate Department of Human Services. The new structure is anticipated to leverage federal resources and maximize the state's purchasing power to manage costs and improve services for everyone who receives a state-sponsored health insurance plan, including the Public Employee Benefits Program (PEBP) and Medicaid.

Governor Lombardo included \$15M in flexible, per capita, public health funding to local public health authorities for the next biennium, an investment approved by the legislature. NACO's Health & Human Services Manager is currently supporting counties through planning and implementation of this next round of funding. SB423, an Interim Health & Human Services Committee bill focused on public health base funding for all counties, which was supported extensively with research and development by NACO's Health & Human Services Manager, did not pass this session, but will remain a priority for public health infrastructure development through the interim.



With the restructuring of the Department of Health & Human Services (SB494) and passage of bills impacting the State Department of Agriculture (AB352, SB466) and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (SB43), public health infrastructure will look different at the state and local level. Counties will have additional partners to coordinate with in the development of local services and the payment of county assessments. The Department of Agriculture will regulate all cottage food and cosmetics, as well as cover all food-related public health oversight for counties outside of health districts, which includes restaurant permitting and inspections. The Nevada Health Authority will oversee healthcare quality and compliance, and within that unit, public health permitting and inspection of all non-food facilities, such as pools, hotels, RV parks, and tattoo parlors. The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection will have primary responsibility for solid waste management and public water system authority with specific duties negotiated through interlocal agreements with health districts. NACO's Health & Human Services Manager worked extensively throughout session with sponsors and staff proposing infrastructure changes to promote good policy, limit negative impacts to counties, including county budgets, and to promote the county voice in policy discussions. NACO will provide ongoing updates to changes as implemented.

Throughout the session, the NACO Health & Human Services Manager played a central role in facilitating the Nevada Association of County Human Services Administrators Legislative Call. These meetings ensured participating county Human Services Directors and staff were informed and coordinated within real time, and provided a forum for reviewing bills, sharing fiscal concerns, and shaping collective responses.

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BILLS THAT PERTAIN TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Italics indicate actions that counties must take; text in purple indicate actions that county elected officials must take and/or notes from NACO.

AB19 – Revises the Statewide Substance Use Response Working Group, adding additional members, including a designee of the Department of Indigent Defense Services, a member from the Division of Public & Behavioral Health, and someone who is bilingual and resides in a bilingual household.

AB30 – *Requires local detention centers (including county, city, town jail) to provide mental health information and treatment records to state authority upon request for any person previously in their care who is committed to custody of, or required to report to, the Administrator based upon a finding of incompetence. Effective upon passage and approval.*

AB42 – Revises provisions related to Medicaid, allowing the Administrator of the Division of Health & Human Services to adopt, amend or repeal a regulation or policy within 3 business days in order to comply with state or federal law, or if the result is an expansion of services or benefits.

AB50 – Authorizes a Board of County Commissioners to establish an electronic database containing information concerning victims of mass casualty incidents to coordinate reunification and identification services. *No action is required, but counties may choose to establish such a database to ensure timely reunification and identification processes are in place ahead of mass casualty incidents.*

AB52 – Standardizes and increases requirements for how health insurers and plan administrators process and pay health insurance claims. It shortens decision timeframe to 21 days for electronic and 30 days for non-electronic submissions. The bill requires annual notification of claims processing and insurers must streamline the claims appeal process. *While state plans were exempted, this could have an impact on self-insured plans, those plans should review the passage of this legislation. Effective January 1, 2026.*

AB56 – Revises continuing education requirements for certain healthcare providers.

AB60 – Northern Region Behavioral Health Policy Board bill that establishes profession of Certified Prevention Specialist in statute and requires the Board to adopt regulations governing their practice.

AB65 – Various updates to guardianship laws, including prohibiting government entities from charging fees for documents requested by investigators in guardianship cases. The bill permits extended guardianships for minors seeking special immigrant juvenile status and eliminates Medicaid notification for these cases. *County public guardians should review this legislation thoroughly as those offices must comply with updated service, notice, and investigation procedures effective July 1, 2025.*

AB89 – Requires local child detention centers and regional child rehabilitation and treatment centers to adopt and implement policies regarding unclothed searches of detained children. *Counties must adopt and implement policies in alignment with the law, effective October 1, 2025.*

AB102 – Authorizes a district Board of Health within a health district with a county over 100,000 in population, but under 700,000 in population (*currently Washoe County*), to regulate emergency medical services, and also provides and provides that a person at least 16 years of age, if meeting other requirements, is eligible for licensure as an attendant of an ambulance or air ambulance or certification as an emergency medical technician.

AB220 – Authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a program to issue identification cards to Nevada residents who are experiencing homelessness. *County governments may consider revising policies and procedures to accept this form of identification, and county Human Service Administrators may add this program to any resource lists or current referral processes.*

AB227 – Revises laws on adoption, establishing new procedures, definitions, and safeguards, including requirements for consent, post adoptive contact, and placement. In counties over 100K, requires the Board of County Commissioners to create an ordinance establishing reasonable fees for child welfare agencies assisting in adoption placement, including conducting a home study, and in counties under 100K directs the Division of Child and Family Services to do so. *Direct Adoption Service Counties must update licensing standards, reporting requirements, and procedures for placements.*

AB230 – Ratifies and enters Nevada into the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

AB235 – Allows providers of reproductive health services, any employee or volunteer of a facility, and the spouse or child of such, to request for personal information contained in records of a county recorder, assessor, and clerk to be kept confidential. *Effective July 1, 2025.*

AB266 – Revises provisions related to breastfeeding and public accommodation. Prohibits discrimination in public accommodations for a person breastfeeding a child, including prohibiting any signage or notice, or otherwise indicating that a person breastfeeding a child is unwelcome in a public accommodation. *Effective October 1, 2025.*

AB269 – Revises provider types and expands eligibility for Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program to include Public Health Professionals, MFTs, CADC and ADCs, and Problem Gambling Counselors. *Due to NACO's direct advocacy efforts, County Health Officers are now eligible for this loan repayment program, and other public health professionals serving in local health departments will be added through the regulatory process. Counties should encourage their County Health Officers (CHO) to apply for the program as needed, and utilize this benefit to attract and retain qualified CHOs.*

AB326 – Updates laws related to the designation and operation of centers of trauma, requiring the State Board of Health to establish standards and a designation of a trauma level IV, which is limited to critical access hospitals located more than 80 miles outside the boundaries of a county with two or more existing centers for the treatment of trauma.

AB331 – Makes an appropriation of \$220K per year of the biennium to DHHS for a grant program to support the administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. *NACO supported this bill, as many county governments and county partners in Nevada rely on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to support youth mental and behavioral health efforts in their communities, as well as to secure federal and state grant funding for local projects.*

AB344 – Updates terminology across various statutes for officials performing duties in family, juvenile justice, and similar proceedings. It creates a formal process for transferring child welfare cases between courts within Nevada, requiring both courts to hold a joint hearing and find the transfer is in the best interest of the child. The bill expands the right to legal representation in child welfare cases, including during protective custody hearings and proceedings to determine if a child is in need of protection, and clarifies when and how attorneys must be appointed for parents or guardians. Attorneys appointed in these proceedings must be compensated at rates not less than those for misdemeanor or felony defense, depending on the proceeding. *County governments must ensure that child welfare and court-appointed counsel systems comply with new representation and compensation requirements, particularly for indigent parties, effective October 1, 2025.*

AB350 – Revises provisions related to cemeteries, including process to disinter and move human remains, as well as mandatory upkeep and maintenance of cemeteries. *NACO in partnership with partner county lobbyists negotiated numerous amendments to this legislation. Counties allowed for reasonable upkeep and access standards, and exempted county-owned cemeteries and those deemed historic under NRS.*

AB352 – Establishes a new licensing framework for individuals who prepare and sell cosmetics or food from their home kitchens. It requires people conducting a *cottage cosmetics operation* or a *cottage food operation* to obtain a license from the State Department of Agriculture and meet specific definitions and sales thresholds. The bill allows sales through online and telephone orders and permits food delivery platforms to deliver items from licensed cottage operations. It raises the sales cap for *craft food operations* from \$35,000 to \$100,000 annually and removes certain canning requirements, while also expanding allowances for *farm-to-fork events*, particularly for small farms hosting limited events. *Local governments may regulate the time, place, and manner of these establishments as long as they do not create unreasonable restrictions. NACO worked extensively on this legislation and given the change of jurisdiction for certain services NACO will engage with counties, local health districts and the Department of Agriculture during the regulatory process to ensure a smooth transition of services by the implementation date of July 1, 2027.*

[AB360](#) – Makes changes to requirements for certain medical facilities (does not include hospitals, emergency rooms, or labor unit of a hospital) to test a pregnant woman for syphilis using a rapid test at point of contact instead of a standard serological test in certain circumstances regardless of reason the pregnant woman seeks treatment, and to develop a policy related thereto. *County-owned rural clinics are exempted. Counties owning or operating a non-rural medical facility that meets criteria must comply with standards, effective January 1, 2026.*

[AB387](#) – Revises guardianship laws and court proceedings for minors. It modifies who must be served in guardianship proceedings and updates how service must be conducted. It also allows court waivers for minors to attend hearings, brings clarity to appointing guardians, and mandates additional reporting on parent visitation. *County public guardians should review this legislation thoroughly as those offices must comply with updated procedures effective October 1, 2025.*

[AB428](#) – Requires local government health plans, to include coverage for medically necessary fertility preservation services for insureds who have been diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer. *Counties should review health insurance plans for employees to ensure compliance, effective January 1, 2027.*

[AB448](#) – Establishes new standards and restrictions for providers of vision insurance and vision care, and includes local governments and plans offered by these entities. The bill prohibits deceptive, or unfair, billing and contracting practices. *Local government plans should be reviewed for compliance by January 1, 2026.*

[AB461](#) – Requires the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, through its Aging and Disability Services Division, to implement a program that educates residents about planning for long-term care. The bill also requests the Nevada Supreme Court's Guardianship Commission to study how other states have implemented the Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act. The Commission must examine the remaining provisions of the Act and provide recommendations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services regarding its possible full adoption in Nevada. *County Public Guardians were instrumental in mitigating potential negative impacts of this bill and will have the opportunity to shape future action through participation in the study.*

[AB463](#) – Requires certain health insurers to respond for requests for prior authorization for medical or dental care within a certain amount of time and prohibits certain insurers from requiring prior authorization for certain services. *Counties should review their specific health insurance plans and contracts to determine impact and recommendations for procedural changes. Effective January 1, 2026.*

[AB467](#) – Authorizes the creation of mental health treatment facilities for incompetent defendants within county jails or detention centers in counties with populations over 100,000 (Currently Clark and Washoe Counties). *Impacted counties should review the enabling language within the law for opportunities to further develop jail-based competency restoration programs, and all counties should review the new mandates on DCFS to immediately accept placement of a child who is court-ordered to a treatment facility.*

[AB483](#) – Provides for priority review of emergency medical provider applications for licensure when the provider serves an historically underserved community, defined as a census tract that: (1) is designated as a qualified census tract through HUD; (2) at least 20 percent of households were not proficient in English; or (3) qualified tribal land.

AB514 – Requires Nevada Medicaid to cover *rehabilitative residential mental health care*, defined as community-based, medically monitored treatment in a residential setting. It establishes a new licensing and regulatory framework for providers of this care, including requirements for inspections, background checks, patient safety procedures, and notification of health and safety deficiencies. The State Long-Term Care Ombudsman must now investigate and assist these providers, and providers must be licensed. The bill prohibits unlicensed operation of such facilities and makes violations a misdemeanor.

AB515 – Makes changes to categorical grants received by child welfare agencies for adoption assistance programs such that unspent funds do not revert to the State General Fund and requires child welfare agencies to continue to use such money for the costs of providing child welfare services in alignment with federal law. Additionally, appropriates for the reinvestment of adoptions savings as required by federal law to the Division of Child and Family Services for the Clark, Washoe, and Rural Child Welfare budgets a total of \$3,991,946; requires study on the reinvestment of adoption savings and subsequent plan. *The appropriation in this bill and requirement for the state to develop a plan to ensure effective and efficient compliance with federal law regarding adoption savings regulation benefited all counties and was made possible through the advocacy efforts of partners at Washoe and Clark County.*

AB552 – Makes changes to the Trust Fund for Child Welfare in counties with populations under 100,000. This bill eliminated the requirement (also the permission) for the Division to deduct from the account for any services provided by public funds. *Counties under 100,000 population could see a small fiscal impact, albeit limited, given that this source of revenue is now prohibited from funding services and DCFS has accounted for this in the Rural Child Welfare Budget. See SB284 update below for a similar change made for counties over 100,000 population (currently Washoe and Clark Counties).*

AB556 – Creates the Beneficiary Advisory Council within the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy to advise the Medicaid Advisory Committee on matters relating to the development of Medicaid policy, effective administration, including the experience of being a recipient, the ability to access services, and the methods to better promote health equity for recipients. It establishes Council membership, process to appoint, and minimum meeting cadence. It also revises membership and renames the Medical Care Advisory Committee to the Medicaid Advisory Committee.

SB8 – Revises and simplifies language relating to who is served by the Aging and Disabilities Services Division to those with a developmental or intellectual disability.

SB9 – Establishes timelines for insurers to respond to state inquiries and makes changes to insurers ability to deny a claim based on lack of prior authorization if certain conditions are met by the State.

SB24 – Adds Emergency Medical Responder to the definition of emergency medical attendant and emergency response employee, specifies that an Emergency Medical Responder must be certified by a health officer and makes revisions so that Emergency Medical Responders have privileges similar to EMTs. *Counties may consider the staffing opportunities for emergency preparedness and response enabled by the bill, including staff at volunteer fire departments.*

SB43 – Revisions provisions relating to solid waste management authority and public water system permitting, administration, and enforcement, whereby health districts in an area where a health district has authority through an interlocal agreement with the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP), the district BOH may act as solid waste management authority and/or a perform certain duties and exercise certain authorities in relation to public water systems. This bill represents a transfer of certain statutory responsibilities from local health districts to NDEP. *NACO worked extensively on this bill with NDEP and all local health authorities to create a pathway to local administration and maintain local authority. NACO was able to maintain health district and local government discretion in determining which services and oversight to develop locally and ensured a process for coordination with the State, who is the ultimate authority on Environmental Protection in Nevada. The end result ensures the ability to offer services locally while avoiding mandates. Effective June 9, 2025.*

SB54 – Requires Nevada Medicaid to cover *medical respite care* for people experiencing homelessness beginning July 1, 2027, contingent on federal financial participation. Medical respite care is defined as short-term medical and support services for individuals who are too ill for the streets or shelters but not sick enough for hospitalization. The bill mandates that the Divisions of Health Care Financing and Policy and Public and Behavioral Health develop a model for delivering this care. *Counties should anticipate impacts to County Match Program for covered populations upon implementation, however long-term cost savings to the program are also possible given that medical respite care services may prevent costly hospital stays and may prevent long-term reliance on county safety-net programs. NACO is working with Medicaid to estimate impacts and identify opportunities to manage costs.*

SB87 – Revises how Nevada pays for forensic medical examinations for victims of sexual assault or domestic battery by strangulation. It allows medical providers to be reimbursed directly, rather than only reimbursing counties, and prioritizes payment from the Fund for the Compensation of Victims of Crime. If that fund lacks sufficient money, the county where the assault occurred must cover the remaining costs. The Department of Health and Human Services must set an annual maximum reimbursement rate for these exams, which providers cannot exceed. *Counties may need to anticipate costs related to this legislative change, which will depend on funds available in the Fund for the Compensations of Victims of Crime.*

SB97 – Updates the membership requirements for the Board of Directors of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, adding a member of a Nevada-based tribe.

SB165 – Creates a new licensed role in Nevada: *Behavioral Health and Wellness Practitioners*, who provide prevention-focused mental and behavioral health services under clinical supervision. The bill establishes licensing requirements, background checks, disciplinary procedures, and supervision rules, and prohibits unlicensed practice. It creates a temporary advisory group to guide implementation and extends confidentiality protections to these practitioners and their patients. Medicaid must begin covering services provided by licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners, and funding is allocated to support implementation, including training programs and scholarships.

SB185 – Requires Nevada Medicaid to reimburse family members who provide personal care services to children under 18 with disabilities or chronic illnesses who are eligible for such services. The care must assist the child with daily living activities, and the family member must meet any applicable Medicaid criteria. The bill includes an appropriation to support the cost of implementing the new reimbursement structure. *County Human Services Offices should be made aware of these reimbursement resources from the State.*

SB187 – Revises child welfare administration, setting a 14-day deadline for child welfare agencies to act on non-emergency medical care recommendations for children in their custody. Agencies must provide or deny consent within this timeframe after receiving written notice from a provider. If another party's consent is needed, or if a court order is required, the agency must make reasonable efforts to secure consent or initiate the court process within 14 days. The agency must also notify the child's caregiver promptly after obtaining or being denied such authorization. *County Child Welfare Agencies (Clark and Washoe) should adjust policies and procedures accordingly to align with new provisions of the law. Counties served by DCFS for Child Welfare should anticipate adjustments to DCFS policy and procedures to comply with new directive. Effective October 1, 2025.*

SB276 – Requires local governments and water-related agencies in Nevada to report certain water discharge incidents, including incidents resulting in discharge of sewage or industrial waste or any other unauthorized discharge, to the Division of Environmental Protection. Local governments must also share public records about discharges or water treatment policies with Indian tribes upon request and are prohibited from entering agreements that would block such information sharing. *Counties should adjust their policies and procedures to ensure compliance with new reporting requirements related to water discharge incidents, effective October 1, 2025.*

SB284 – Requires counties serving as child welfare agencies (currently Washoe and Clark counties) to apply for federal benefits on behalf of children in their custody and prohibits using those benefits to cover care costs. Counties must close existing county child welfare trust funds by January 1, 2026, and transfer any remaining funds into individual accounts for children or remit them to designated recipients. Agencies must also provide regular benefit accounting, financial counseling to older youth, and training for any appointed representative payees. *Impacted counties should ensure Child Welfare Agency implementation of new processes. There is a significant fiscal impact, as Child Welfare Agencies currently use SSI benefits to support the care of youth. Certain sections effective May 31, 2015, remaining effective January 1, 2026.*

SB346 – Revises provisions related to guardianship by requiring courts and petitioners to consider and document less restrictive alternatives before establishing or continuing a guardianship. Licensed physicians must now assess and report whether such alternatives are sufficient to meet the person's needs. Guardians must explain why these alternatives are not being pursued in their required reports. The bill also permits courts to terminate or modify guardianships if a less restrictive arrangement is in place, and imposes new requirements for out-of-state guardianship transfers to ensure such alternatives were evaluated. Additionally, the Protected Persons' Bill of Rights is expanded to include the right to be educated about less restrictive options. *Counties should ensure Public Guardians awareness and compliance with new requirements, which may require updates to policy and procedure. Effective October 1, 2025.*

SB353 – Revises provisions relating to Medicaid, specifically developing a category of provider for the purposes of billing and reimbursement that provides education and training to students of certain mental health professions, and develops an all-inclusive per diem rate of reimbursement for a visit to such a clinic or a mobile clinic owned/operated by that clinic, outside the clinic to those without permanent dwelling or address, or through telehealth. The bill includes appropriations to enable compliance and program development.

SB372 – Revises provisions relating to care of children, amending NRS to add that a child is not considered abused or neglected because (1) a parent or guardian seeks to have the child admitted to a private or public mental health facility or hospital if the child's behavioral health needs pose a risk to the safety or welfare of the family, and (2) a parent or guardian of a child brings into the home of a biological, foster, or adopted child whose behavioral health needs pose a threat to the safety and welfare of the family. *Approved, but with significant discussion and advocacy from Washoe and Clark Counties related to the State's need to meet the requirements in laws previously passed to ensure the development of a clinical team and statewide action plan to develop the appropriate infrastructure for children with acute behavioral health needs, recognizing that the Child Welfare System is not the appropriate placement for these kids. The Legislature requested Child Welfare Agencies to report in the interim on progress made by the State to address this vulnerable population with appropriate options and resources. Law effective October 1, 2025.*

SB387 – Revises private health insurance and health plans that cover treatment for lung cancer to include coverage for certain screening for lung cancer; requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on access to screening for lung cancer. *Counties should review and update health plans as needed to adhere to this new requirement.*

SB389 – Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with a single state pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) by January 1, 2030, to manage prescription drug coverage under Medicaid and related plans.

SB424 – Emergency Medical Transport Provider Tax – Requires Nevada Medicaid to impose an assessment on private emergency medical transport providers, with revenues deposited into a new Account to Improve Emergency Medical Transportation Quality and Access. Funds in the Account may be used for enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rates, infrastructure improvements, outreach initiatives, and related administrative costs. The Division must adopt regulations for enforcement, including penalties and collection processes for unpaid assessments, and notify health authorities of non-compliance. Health authorities may then take disciplinary action against non-compliant providers. The bill also authorizes health authorities to create training programs to help emergency responders identify and assist victims of human trafficking.

SB466 – Establishes the authority for the State Department of Agriculture to take over certain duties from the Department of Health & Human Services, mainly public health functions related to the oversight and permitting of food establishments and other food safety duties. This bill transfers the authority to assess counties for the cost of service provision related to these services to the Department of Agriculture. *NACO worked with the Director's Office and bill sponsors to limit impacts to counties related to the transfer of responsibility, including amending in language that ensures the Department of Agriculture consider various funding sources, including fees, grants, and state budget, in addition to county assessments, to sustain the services. NACO and the Department of Agriculture will coordinate to ensure limited impacts on an appropriate plan moving forward.*

[SB494](#) – Creates the Nevada Health Authority, which includes Nevada Medicaid, State Health Care Purchasing Unit, Consumer Health & Access Unit, Public Employees Benefits Program (PEBP), and the Health Care Workforce Development & Compliance Unit. The bill creates the structure, leadership, and authorities of the new department, transferring certain health care and public health regulatory oversight from the Division of Public & Behavioral Health. The Department of Health & Human Services is renamed to Department of Human Services and retains ADSD, DCFS, DPBH, and Social Services (previously, DWSS). *Nevada Medicaid accepted a NACO amendment to ensure that the new provisions enabling counties to take on Medicaid eligibility responsibilities are only done so through interlocal agreement. Counties should anticipate changes to County Assessment structure, as some services previously provided by DHHS are now transferred to the Nevada Health Authority with the authority to assess for such services.*

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*Please don't hesitate to contact NACO if you would like additional information or assistance with any of the information contained in this document.*

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