

Governor Sisolak Proposed Legislation
PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCE OFFICE

(SB 424)

SUMMARY

The Governor has proposed legislation for consideration in the 2021 Legislative Session to authorize the creation of the Public Health Resource Office within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, for the purpose of helping to address public health needs in the state.

PURPOSE

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed deficiencies in the critical role public health preparedness plays in responding to public health and medical emergencies. Nevada's public health systems require meaningful transformation in order to respond to the state's evolving preparedness and delivery needs. In order to identify opportunities for improved coordination, state infrastructure needs, federal funding opportunities, and to improve public health delivery systems throughout the state the Governor is requesting a Public Health Resource Office to be established in the Department of Health and Human Services under the Division of Public and Behavioral Health..

The Administrator of the Division is to appoint a person knowledgeable in the field of public health to serve as the Public Health officer. The Public Health Resource Office will be charged with carrying out the following responsibilities:

Responsibilities of the Public Health Resource Office:

- Analyze the existing infrastructure for meeting the public health needs of the state
- Identify and make recommendations for the Governor, Legislature, Director and Administrator concerning
 - Unmet needs for public health services
 - Opportunities to obtain federal or private funding to support public health services
 - Ways in which to improve coordination between providers of public health services and maximize efficiency in the delivery of public health services

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

To ensure the protection and improvement of the public landscape in Nevada, this office may accept grants, gifts and donations to support its duties.