

SENATE BILL NO. 402—SENATORS DENIS, SPEARMAN,  
PARKS, HARDY, KIHUEN; SEGERBLOM AND SMITH

MARCH 17, 2015

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN DIAZ; BUSTAMANTE  
ADAMS, CARRILLO, FLORES AND THOMPSON

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning the prevention  
and treatment of obesity. (BDR 40-891)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public health; defining the term “obesity” as a chronic disease; requiring the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare an annual report on obesity; requiring certain school districts to collect data concerning the height and weight of pupils; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law uses the term “obesity” in listing the benefits of breast-feeding,  
2 mandating training for child care providers and mandating public information and  
3 prevention programs of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the  
4 Department of Health and Human Services. (NRS 201.232, 432A.1775, 439.517,  
5 439.521) **Section 1** of this bill defines the term “obesity” in the preliminary chapter  
6 of NRS as a chronic disease having certain characteristics. **Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5** of  
7 this bill define the term “obesity” as used in those provisions of existing law.  
8 **Section 5** also requires the Division to prepare an annual report on obesity statistics  
9 in this State and the efforts to reduce obesity.

10 Existing law requires the board of trustees of each school district in a county  
11 whose population is 100,000 or more (currently Clark and Washoe Counties),  
12 through June 30, 2015, to: (1) conduct examinations of the height and weight of  
13 certain pupils in the schools within the school district; (2) provide notice of such  
14 examinations to the parent or guardian of a child before performing the  
15 examination; and (3) report the results of such examinations to the Chief Medical  
16 Officer. (NRS 392.420) **Section 2.5** of this bill: (1) requires the board of trustees of



\* S B 4 0 2 R 1 \*

17 each such school district to use school nurses, health personnel and certain teachers  
18 and other personnel to conduct such examinations on and after July 1, 2015; and (2)  
19 provides that, under certain circumstances, the school authorities are not required to  
20 provide notice to the parent or guardian of a child before conducting such an  
21 examination. **Section 2.5** also requires the Division of Public and Behavioral  
22 Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to: (1) compile a report of  
23 the results of such examinations specific to each region of this State for which such  
24 information is collected; and (2) publish and disseminate the reports.

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

1 **Section 1.** The preliminary chapter of NRS is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute or required*  
4 *by the context, "obesity" means a chronic disease characterized by*  
5 *an abnormal and unhealthy accumulation of body fat which is*  
6 *statistically correlated with premature mortality, hypertension,*  
7 *heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other health conditions, and*  
8 *may be indicated by:*

9 (a) *A body mass index of 30 or higher in adults;*

10 (b) *A body mass index that is greater than two standard*  
11 *deviations above the World Health Organization's growth*  
12 *standard for children who are at least 5 but less than 19 years of*  
13 *age, or greater than three standard deviations above the standard*  
14 *for children who are less than 5 years of age;*

15 (c) *A body fat percentage greater than 25 percent for men or*  
16 *32 percent for women; or*

17 (d) *A waist size of 40 inches or more for men or 35 inches or*  
18 *more for women.*

19 *2. As used in this section, "chronic disease" means a health*  
20 *condition or disease which presents for a period of 3 months or*  
21 *more or is persistent, indefinite or incurable.*

22 **Sec. 2.** NRS 201.232 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 201.232 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

24 (a) The medical profession in the United States recommends  
25 that children from birth to the age of 1 year should be breast fed,  
26 unless under particular circumstances it is medically inadvisable.

27 (b) Despite the recommendation of the medical profession,  
28 statistics reveal a declining percentage of mothers who are choosing  
29 to breast feed their babies.

30 (c) Many new mothers are now choosing to use formula rather  
31 than to breast feed even before they leave the hospital, and only a  
32 small percentage of all mothers are still breast feeding when their  
33 babies are 6 months old.



1 (d) In addition to the benefit of improving bonding between  
2 mothers and their babies, breast feeding offers better nutrition,  
3 digestion and immunity for babies than does formula feeding, and it  
4 may increase the intelligence quotient of a child. Babies who are  
5 breast fed have lower rates of death, meningitis, childhood leukemia  
6 and other cancers, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral  
7 infections, diarrheal diseases, otitis media, allergies, obesity and  
8 developmental delays.

9 (e) Breast feeding also provides significant benefits to the health  
10 of the mother, including protection against breast cancer and other  
11 cancers, osteoporosis and infections of the urinary tract. The  
12 incidence of breast cancer in the United States might be reduced by  
13 25 percent if every woman breast fed all her children until they  
14 reached the age of 2 years.

15 (f) The World Health Organization and the United Nations  
16 Children's Fund have established as one of their major goals for the  
17 decade the encouragement of breast feeding.

18 (g) The social constraints of modern society weigh against the  
19 choice of breast feeding and lead new mothers with demanding time  
20 schedules to opt for formula feeding to avoid embarrassment, social  
21 ostracism or criminal prosecution.

22 (h) Any genuine promotion of family values should encourage  
23 public acceptance of this most basic act of nurture between a mother  
24 and her baby, and no mother should be made to feel incriminated or  
25 socially ostracized for breast feeding her child.

26 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a mother may  
27 breast feed her child in any public or private location where the  
28 mother is otherwise authorized to be, irrespective of whether  
29 the nipple of the mother's breast is uncovered during or incidental to  
30 the breast feeding.

31 **3. As used in this section:**

32 (a) ***"Obesity" means a chronic disease characterized by an***  
33 ***abnormal and unhealthy accumulation of body fat which is***  
34 ***statistically correlated with premature mortality, hypertension,***  
35 ***heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other health conditions, and***  
36 ***may be indicated by:***

37 (1) ***A body mass index of 30 or higher in adults;***

38 (2) ***A body mass index that is greater than two standard***  
39 ***deviations above the World Health Organization's growth***  
40 ***standard for children who are at least 5 but less than 19 years of***  
41 ***age, or greater than three standard deviations above the standard***  
42 ***for children who are less than 5 years of age;***

43 (3) ***A body fat percentage greater than 25 percent for men***  
44 ***or 32 percent for women; or***



1           ***(4) A waist size of 40 inches or more for men or 35 inches***  
2 ***or more for women.***

3           ***(b) "Chronic disease" means a health condition or disease***  
4 ***which presents for a period of 3 months or more or is persistent,***  
5 ***indefinite or incurable.***

6           **Sec. 2.5.** NRS 392.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7           392.420 1. In each school at which a school nurse is  
8 responsible for providing nursing services, the school nurse shall  
9 plan for and carry out, or supervise qualified health personnel in  
10 carrying out, a separate and careful observation and examination of  
11 every child who is regularly enrolled in a grade specified by the  
12 board of trustees or superintendent of schools of the school district  
13 in accordance with this subsection to determine whether the child  
14 has scoliosis, any visual or auditory problem, or any gross physical  
15 defect. The grades in which the observations and examinations must  
16 be carried out are as follows:

17           (a) For visual and auditory problems:

18               (1) Before the completion of the first year of initial  
19 enrollment in elementary school;

20               (2) In at least one additional grade of the elementary schools;  
21 and

22               (3) In one grade of the middle or junior high schools and one  
23 grade of the high schools; and

24           (b) For scoliosis, in at least one grade of schools below the high  
25 schools.

26           ↪ Any person other than a school nurse, including, without  
27 limitation, a person employed at a school to provide basic first aid  
28 and health services to pupils, who performs an observation or  
29 examination pursuant to this subsection must be trained by a school  
30 nurse to conduct the observation or examination.

31           2. ***In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, the board***  
32 ***of trustees of each school district in a county whose population is***  
33 ***100,000 or more shall direct school nurses, qualified health***  
34 ***personnel employed pursuant to subsection 6, teachers who teach***  
35 ***physical education or health or other licensed educational***  
36 ***personnel who have completed training in measuring the height***  
37 ***and weight of a pupil provided by the school district, to measure***  
38 ***the height and weight of a representative sample of pupils who are***  
39 ***enrolled in grades 4, 7 and 10 in the schools within the school***  
40 ***district. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the***  
41 ***Department of Health and Human Services shall determine the***  
42 ***number of pupils necessary to include in the representative***  
43 ***sample.***

44           3. If any child is attending school in a grade above one of the  
45 specified grades and has not previously received such an



1 observation and examination, the child must be included in the  
2 current schedule for observation and examination. Any child who is  
3 newly enrolled in the district must be examined for any medical  
4 condition for which children in a lower grade are examined.

5 ~~3-~~ 4. A special examination for a possible visual or auditory  
6 problem must be provided for any child who:

7 (a) Is enrolled in a special program;

8 (b) Is repeating a grade;

9 (c) Has failed an examination for a visual or auditory problem  
10 during the previous school year; or

11 (d) Shows in any other way that the child may have such a  
12 problem.

13 ~~4-~~ 5. The school authorities shall notify the parent or  
14 guardian of any child who is found or believed to have scoliosis, any  
15 visual or auditory problem, or any gross physical defect, and shall  
16 recommend that appropriate medical attention be secured to correct  
17 it.

18 ~~5-~~ 6. In any school district in which state, county or district  
19 public health services are available or conveniently obtainable, those  
20 services may be used to meet the responsibilities assigned under the  
21 provisions of this section. The board of trustees of the school district  
22 may employ qualified personnel to perform them. Any nursing  
23 services provided by such qualified personnel must be performed in  
24 compliance with chapter 632 of NRS.

25 ~~6-~~ 7. The board of trustees of a school district may adopt a  
26 policy which encourages the school district and schools within the  
27 school district to collaborate with:

28 (a) Qualified health care providers within the community to  
29 perform, or assist in the performance of, the services required by  
30 this section; and

31 (b) Postsecondary educational institutions for qualified students  
32 enrolled in such an institution in a health-related program to  
33 perform, or assist in the performance of, the services required by  
34 this section.

35 ~~7. The~~

36 **8. *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the*** school  
37 authorities shall provide notice to the parent or guardian of a child  
38 before performing on the child the examinations required by this  
39 section. The notice must inform the parent or guardian of the right to  
40 exempt the child from all or part of the examinations. Any child  
41 must be exempted from an examination if the child's parent or  
42 guardian files with the teacher a written statement objecting to the  
43 examination.

44 ~~8-~~ ***The school authorities are not required to provide notice***  
45 ***to the parent or guardian of a child before measuring the child's***



1 *height or weight pursuant to subsection 2 if it is not practicable to*  
2 *do so.*

3 **9.** Each school nurse or a designee of a school nurse, including,  
4 without limitation, a person employed at a school to provide basic  
5 first aid and health services to pupils, shall report the results of the  
6 examinations conducted pursuant to this section in each school at  
7 which he or she is responsible for providing services to the Chief  
8 Medical Officer in the format prescribed by the Chief Medical  
9 Officer. Each such report must exclude any identifying information  
10 relating to a particular child. The Chief Medical Officer shall  
11 compile all such information the Officer receives to monitor the  
12 health status of children and shall retain the information.

13 **10. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the**  
14 **Department of Health and Human Services shall:**

15 *(a) Compile a report relating to each region of this State for*  
16 *which data is collected regarding the height and weight of pupils*  
17 *measured pursuant to subsection 2 and reported to the Chief*  
18 *Medical Officer pursuant to subsection 9; and*

19 *(b) Publish and disseminate the reports not later than 12*  
20 *months after receiving the results of the examinations pursuant to*  
21 *subsection 9.*

22 **Sec. 3.** NRS 432A.1775 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 432A.1775 1. Each person who is employed in a child care  
24 facility that provides care for more than 12 children, other than in a  
25 facility that provides care for ill children, shall complete:

26 (a) Before January 1, 2014, at least 15 hours of training;

27 (b) On or after January 1, 2014, and before January 1, 2015, at  
28 least 18 hours of training;

29 (c) On or after January 1, 2015, and before January 1, 2016, at  
30 least 21 hours of training; and

31 (d) On or after January 1, 2016, 24 hours of training each year.

32 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, each person  
33 who is employed in any child care facility, other than in a facility  
34 that provides care for ill children, shall complete at least 15 hours of  
35 training each year.

36 3. At least 2 hours of the training required by subsections 1 and  
37 2 each year must be devoted to the lifelong wellness, health and  
38 safety of children and must include training relating to childhood  
39 obesity, nutrition and physical activity.

40 **4. As used in this section:**

41 *(a) "Obesity" means a chronic disease characterized by an*  
42 *abnormal and unhealthy accumulation of body fat which is*  
43 *statistically correlated with premature mortality, hypertension,*  
44 *heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other health conditions, and*  
45 *may be indicated by:*



- 1           (1) *A body mass index of 30 or higher in adults;*
- 2           (2) *A body mass index that is greater than two standard*
- 3 *deviations above the World Health Organization's growth*
- 4 *standard for children who are at least 5 but less than 19 years of*
- 5 *age, or greater than three standard deviations above the standard*
- 6 *for children who are less than 5 years of age;*
- 7           (3) *A body fat percentage greater than 25 percent for men*
- 8 *or 32 percent for women; or*
- 9           (4) *A waist size of 40 inches or more for men or 35 inches*
- 10 *or more for women.*
- 11       (b) *"Chronic disease" means a health condition or disease*
- 12 *which presents for a period of 3 months or more or is persistent,*
- 13 *indefinite or incurable.*

14       **Sec. 4.** NRS 439.517 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
15       439.517 1. Within the limits of available money, the Division  
16 shall establish the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of  
17 Chronic Disease to increase public knowledge and raise public  
18 awareness relating to wellness and chronic diseases and to educate  
19 the residents of this State about:

- 20       ~~1-1~~ (a) Wellness, including, without limitation, behavioral
- 21 health, proper nutrition, maintaining oral health, increasing physical
- 22 fitness, preventing obesity and tobacco use; and
- 23       ~~1-2~~ (b) The prevention of chronic diseases, including, without
- 24 limitation, asthma, cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease , *obesity*
- 25 and oral disease.

26       2. *As used in this section:*  
27       (a) *"Obesity" means a chronic disease characterized by an*

28 *abnormal and unhealthy accumulation of body fat which is*

29 *statistically correlated with premature mortality, hypertension,*

30 *heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other health conditions, and*

31 *may be indicated by:*

- 32           (1) *A body mass index of 30 or higher in adults;*
- 33           (2) *A body mass index that is greater than two standard*
- 34 *deviations above the World Health Organization's growth*
- 35 *standard for children who are at least 5 but less than 19 years of*
- 36 *age, or greater than three standard deviations above the standard*
- 37 *for children who are less than 5 years of age;*
- 38           (3) *A body fat percentage greater than 25 percent for men*
- 39 *or 32 percent for women; or*
- 40           (4) *A waist size of 40 inches or more for men or 35 inches*
- 41 *or more for women.*
- 42       (b) *"Chronic disease" means a health condition or disease*
- 43 *which presents for a period of three months or more or is*
- 44 *persistent, indefinite or incurable.*



1 **Sec. 5.** NRS 439.521 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 439.521 **1.** To carry out the provisions of NRS 439.514 to  
3 439.525, inclusive, the Division shall, within the limits of available  
4 money, and with the advice and recommendations of the Advisory  
5 Council:

6 ~~1-1~~ **(a)** Periodically prepare burden reports concerning health  
7 problems and diseases, including, without limitation, a lack of  
8 physical fitness, poor nutrition, tobacco use and exposure to tobacco  
9 smoke, ~~obesity,~~ chronic diseases, **including, without limitation,**  
10 **obesity and diabetes,** and other diseases, as determined by the  
11 Division, using the most recent information obtained through  
12 surveillance, epidemiology and research. As used in this  
13 ~~subsection,~~ **paragraph,** "burden report" means a calculation of the  
14 impact of a particular health problem or chronic disease on this  
15 State, as measured by financial cost, mortality, morbidity or other  
16 indicators specified by the Division.

17 ~~1-2~~ **(b)** *Prepare an annual report on obesity pursuant to*  
18 *paragraph (a) which must:*

19 **(1)** *Include, without limitation:*

20 **(I)** *Current obesity rates in this State;*

21 **(II)** *Information regarding obesity with regard to*  
22 *specific demographics;*

23 **(III)** *Actions taken by the Division regarding obesity;*  
24 *and*

25 **(IV)** *The State's goals and achievements regarding*  
26 *obesity rates.*

27 **(2)** *On or before March 15 of each year, be submitted to the*  
28 *Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to:*

29 **(I)** *The Legislative Committee on Health Care during*  
30 *even-numbered years; and*

31 **(II)** *The Legislature during odd-numbered years.*

32 **(c)** Identify, review and encourage, in coordination with the  
33 Department of Education, the Nevada System of Higher Education  
34 and other appropriate state agencies, existing evidence-based  
35 programs related to nutrition, physical fitness and tobacco  
36 prevention and cessation, including, without limitation, programs of  
37 state and local governments, educational institutions, businesses and  
38 the general public.

39 ~~1-3~~ **(d)** Develop, promote and coordinate recommendations for  
40 model and evidence-based programs that contribute to reductions in  
41 the incidence of chronic disease in this State. The programs should  
42 encourage:

43 ~~1-a~~ **(1)** Proper nutrition, physical fitness and health among the  
44 residents of this State, including, without limitation, parents and





- 1 children, senior citizens, high-risk populations and persons with  
2 special needs; and
- 3 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) Work-site wellness policies that include, without  
4 limitation, tobacco-free and breast feeding-friendly environments,  
5 healthy food and beverage choices and physical activity  
6 opportunities in schools, businesses and public buildings.
- 7 ~~[(4)]~~ (e) Assist on projects within this State as requested by, and  
8 in coordination with, the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and  
9 Nutrition.
- 10 ~~[(5)]~~ (f) Identify and review methods for reducing health care  
11 costs associated with tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke,  
12 ~~[(obesity)]~~ chronic diseases , **including, without limitation, obesity**  
13 **and diabetes**, and other diseases, as determined by the Division.
- 14 ~~[(6)]~~ (g) Maintain a website to provide information and  
15 resources on nutrition, physical fitness, health, wellness and the  
16 prevention of ~~[(obesity and)]~~ chronic diseases ~~[(~~  
17 ~~—7—)]~~, **including, without limitation, obesity and diabetes**.
- 18 (h) Solicit information from and, to the extent feasible,  
19 coordinate its efforts with:
- 20 ~~[(a)]~~ (1) Other governmental agencies;
- 21 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) National health organizations and their local and state  
22 chapters;
- 23 ~~[(c)]~~ (3) Community and business leaders;
- 24 ~~[(d)]~~ (4) Community organizations;
- 25 ~~[(e)]~~ (5) Providers of health care;
- 26 ~~[(f)]~~ (6) Private schools; and
- 27 ~~[(g)]~~ (7) Other persons who provide services relating to tobacco  
28 use and exposure, physical fitness and wellness and the prevention  
29 of ~~[(obesity)]~~ chronic diseases , **including, without limitation,**  
30 **obesity and diabetes**, and other diseases.
- 31 ~~[(8)]~~ (i) Establish, maintain and enhance statewide chronic  
32 disease surveillance systems.
- 33 ~~[(9)]~~ (j) Translate surveillance, evaluation and research  
34 information into press releases, briefs, community education and  
35 advocacy materials and other publications that highlight chronic  
36 diseases and the key risk factors of those diseases.
- 37 ~~[(10)]~~ (k) Identify, assist and encourage the growth of, through  
38 funding, training, resources and other support, the community's  
39 capacity to assist persons who have a chronic disease.
- 40 ~~[(11)]~~ (l) Encourage relevant community organizations to  
41 effectively recruit key population groups to receive clinical  
42 preventative services, including, without limitation:
- 43 ~~[(a)]~~ (1) Screening and early detection of breast, cervical and  
44 colorectal cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity;
- 45 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) Oral screenings; and



1 ~~(e)~~ (3) Tobacco cessation counseling.  
2 ~~(2)~~ (m) Promote positive policy, system and environmental  
3 changes within communities and the health care system based on,  
4 without limitation, the Chronic Care Model developed by the  
5 MacColl Center for Health Care Innovation and the Patient-  
6 Centered Medical Home Recognition Program of the National  
7 Committee for Quality Assurance.

8 ~~(3)~~ (n) Review and revise the Program as needed.

9 2. *As used in this section:*

10 (a) *“Obesity” means a chronic disease characterized by an*  
11 *abnormal and unhealthy accumulation of body fat which is*  
12 *statistically correlated with premature mortality, hypertension,*  
13 *heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other health conditions, and*  
14 *may be indicated by:*

15 (1) *A body mass index of 30 or higher in adults;*

16 (2) *A body mass index that is greater than two standard*  
17 *deviations above the World Health Organization’s growth*  
18 *standard for children who are at least 5 but less than 19 years of*  
19 *age, or greater than three standard deviations above the standard*  
20 *for children who are less than 5 years of age;*

21 (3) *A body fat percentage greater than 25 percent for men*  
22 *or 32 percent for women; or*

23 (4) *A waist size of 40 inches or more for men or 35 inches*  
24 *or more for women.*

25 (b) *“Chronic disease” means a health condition or disease*  
26 *which presents for a period of 3 months or more or is persistent,*  
27 *indefinite or incurable.*

28 **Sec. 6.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do  
29 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a  
30 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

31 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.





