



Advocating for Psychologists in Nevada  
P.O. Box 400671  
Las Vegas, NV 89140  
[www.nvpsychology.org](http://www.nvpsychology.org)  
(888) 654-0050 ph/fax

## 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Here are the bills of significance NPA was most active on during this past legislative session. These would have to be termed successes, without NPA's involvement, this trio of bills would have turned out much differently (to the detriment of our members):

**SB 190** *Provides for the licensure of music therapists. (BDR 54-377).* This bill provides for the licensure and regulation of music therapists and makes it unlawful to practice music therapy or hold oneself out as a music therapist without a license. The bill makes the State Board of Health the licensing entity for music therapists and establishes the requirements and fee for licensure to practice as a music therapist. Senator Mo Denis (D-Las Vegas), the sponsor of the bill worked closely with NPA lobbyist Bryan Gresh and NPA Legislative Chair, Dr. Michelle Carro and Dr. Judy Phoenix. Although not perfect, the combined efforts of psychologists and marriage and family therapists greatly improved the original language. The bill passed out of the full Assembly on May 28 and was signed by the governor on June 3. We will undoubtedly be watching this during the interim to determine what 'tweaks' will be necessary during the 2013 session.

**AB 316** *Establishes provisions relating to persons with autism. (BDR 38-260).* Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury (R-Henderson) is the sponsor of this bill. The bill provides for a statewide standard for measuring outcomes and assessing and evaluating persons with autism spectrum disorders through the age of 21 years for the purposes of receiving services. The bill establishes the Autism Treatment Assistance Program to provide and coordinate the provision of services to persons with autism spectrum disorders. Again, NPA Legislative Chair, Dr. Michelle Carro, worked tirelessly on appropriate amendment language. Bryan Gresh worked alongside Assemblywoman Woodbury and testified on behalf of NPA during the bill's Senate hearing on Saturday, June 4. The bill passed unanimously out of both houses and was signed by Governor Sandoval.

**SB 294** *Establishes provisions governing medical assistants. (BDR 40-16).* Senator Barbara Cegavske (R- Las Vegas) is the sponsor of this bill. SB 294 authorizes medical assistants, under the supervision of a physician or physician assistant, to possess and administer dangerous drugs under certain circumstances. But that's not what is of interest to us here. An amendment was adopted during a Conference Committee with just hours remaining in the session. That action is of significant interest to NPA in the Autism arena. The amendment revises—and strengthens—the requirements for licensure as a behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst to provide that the applicant must hold current certification as a board certified behavior analyst or board certified assistant behavior analyst, as applicable, issued by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board. The amendment also expands the requirements for a certificate as an autism behavior interventionist to include the completion of a practical examination developed and approved by the Board. The medical assistants' bill passed both houses unanimously and the Conference Committee amendment with the BA language was adopted late on the last day of the 2011 session. The governor signed SB 294.