



2015 Nevada State Legislature Highlights

As the 2015 Legislative Session winds to a close, we are starting to catch our breath. It's always a busy four months, and this year we were actively tracking more than 40 different pieces of legislation. Several of these bills will have a significant impact on the practice of psychology:

- AB 292 establishes provisions for providing **telehealth** services in Nevada
- AB 6 improves access to services for children with **autism**. Among the provisions of this bill, NBOPE will continue to regulate the licensure and practice of behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts, but technicians/tutors (formerly CABI) will now be registered with the national association (RBT) and regulated under the license of the BCBA or licensed psychologist
- SB 15 added "**Tarasoff**" **Duty to Protect** provisions for mental health providers
- SB 7 and AB 91 addressed **Legal 2000** practices, attempting to add practitioners who are able to certify and decertify emergency Mental Health admissions. AB 91 was defeated; SB 7 was amended and passed both houses
- AB 289 created an Interim Healthcare Study Committee to establish **Regionalized Mental Health authority** in Nevada
- AB 93 adds a requirement for **suicide prevention training** to the licensure of all healthcare and mental health care professionals
- SB 353 **prohibits the practice of conversion therapy** to change sexual orientation of minors

Additionally, NPA tried to address changes to current NRS statute 89.050. Known as "corporate practice" laws, we sought support from Sen. Joe Hardy to introduce legislation that will allow physicians to form professional corporations with mental/behavioral health providers (psychologists, MFT's, LCSW's). Despite broad support from psychiatry and a range of medical practitioners, the legislation was not introduced this session. Senator Hardy is supportive of addressing this issue through the Interim Healthcare Committee in preparation for the 2017 session.

NPA was actively involved during the 2013/2014 Interim Healthcare Committee meetings, and we will be active again in 2015/2016. We have become "players" at the

table with legislators and other healthcare providers, sharing our expertise as lawmakers attempt to improve mental/behavioral health services in Nevada.

As always, volunteers to the NPA legislative committee gave hours of their time to monitor legislation, write letters in support or disagreement, and testify in Carson City. We focus on bills that impact the practice of psychology and our scope of practice licensure, making sure psychologists are represented in legislation impacting mental/behavioral health services in Nevada. Countless additional bills such as gun violence prevention, bullying, and human trafficking are issues the committee monitors but does not currently have the resources to address. We invite feedback from membership about the activities of this committee and your thoughts about additional advocacy for which NPA can or should engage?

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Legislative Committee Co-Chairs