

SENATE BILL NO. 327—SENATORS FARLEY, HARRIS AND HARDY

MARCH 16, 2015

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing air ambulances. (BDR 40-1017)

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

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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 air ambulances; providing for the minimum number of attendants and qualifications of those attendants for an air ambulance; amending certain permitting requirements for air ambulances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law provides for the issuance of a permit for the operation of an air
2 ambulance by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of
3 Health and Human Services or by the district board of health of a county whose
4 population is 700,000 or more (currently Clark County). (NRS 450B.200) **Section**
5 **3** of this bill provides for the minimum number of attendants and qualifications for
6 those attendants aboard an air ambulance. **Section 5** of this bill revises the training
7 requirements for a licensed physician, registered nurse or licensed physician
8 assistant to be certified as an attendant. **Section 6** of this bill authorizes an
9 emergency medical services registered nurse to perform certain procedures. **Section**
10 **7** of this bill requires that an air ambulance obtain a permit from the health
11 authority, either the Division or a district board of health, in any jurisdiction in
12 which the air ambulance receives a patient.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 450B of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.
3 **Sec. 2.** *“Emergency medical services registered nurse”*
4 *means a registered nurse who is issued a certificate to serve as an*



1 *attendant by the State Board of Nursing pursuant to subsection 8*
2 *of NRS 450B.160.*

3 **Sec. 3. 1.** *During any period in which an air ambulance is*
4 *used to provide emergency services, the air ambulance must be*
5 *staffed with, at a minimum:*

6 *(a) One primary attendant who:*

7 *(1) Is an emergency medical services registered nurse;*

8 *(2) Has at least 5 years of experience as a registered nurse,*

9 *which includes:*

10 *(I) Two years of critical care nursing experience if*
11 *working on a fixed wing air ambulance; or*

12 *(II) Three years of critical care nursing experience if*
13 *working on a rotary wing air ambulance;*

14 *(3) Has successfully completed an air ambulance attendant*
15 *course which includes didactic and clinical components and is*
16 *approved or in compliance with requirements set by the board;*
17 *and*

18 *(4) Has demonstrated proficiency in basic prehospital skills*
19 *and advance procedures as specified by the board; and*

20 *(b) One secondary attendant who:*

21 *(1) Is certified as an advanced emergency medical*
22 *technician or paramedic;*

23 *(2) Has at least 3 years of field experience as an advanced*
24 *emergency medical technician or paramedic;*

25 *(3) Has successfully completed an air ambulance attendant*
26 *course which includes didactic and clinical components and is*
27 *approved or in compliance with requirements set by the board;*
28 *and*

29 *(4) Has demonstrated proficiency in basic prehospital skills*
30 *and advance procedures as specified by the board.*

31 **2.** *The board may adopt regulations specifying the acceptable*
32 *documentation of the requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) or*
33 *(b) of subsection 1.*

34 **Sec. 4.** NRS 450B.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 450B.020 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
36 requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 450B.025 to
37 450B.110, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* have the meanings
38 ascribed to them in those sections.

39 **Sec. 5.** NRS 450B.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 450B.160 1. The health authority may issue licenses to
41 attendants and to firefighters employed by or serving as volunteers
42 with a fire-fighting agency.

43 2. Each license must be evidenced by a card issued to the
44 holder of the license, is valid for a period not to exceed 2 years and
45 is renewable.



1 3. An applicant for a license must file with the health authority:
2 (a) A current, valid certificate evidencing the applicant's
3 successful completion of a program of training as an emergency
4 medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or
5 paramedic, if the applicant is applying for a license as an attendant,
6 or, if a volunteer attendant, at a level of skill determined by the
7 board.

8 (b) A current valid certificate evidencing the applicant's
9 successful completion of a program of training as an emergency
10 medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or
11 paramedic, if the applicant is applying for a license as a firefighter
12 with a fire-fighting agency.

13 (c) A signed statement showing:

14 (1) The name and address of the applicant;

15 (2) The name and address of the employer of the applicant;
16 and

17 (3) A description of the applicant's duties.

18 (d) Such other certificates for training and such other items as
19 the board may specify.

20 4. The board shall adopt such regulations as it determines are
21 necessary for the issuance, suspension, revocation and renewal of
22 licenses.

23 5. Each operator of an ambulance or air ambulance and each
24 fire-fighting agency shall annually file with the health authority a
25 complete list of the licensed persons in its service.

26 6. Licensed physicians, registered nurses and licensed
27 physician assistants may serve as attendants without being licensed
28 under the provisions of this section. A registered nurse who
29 performs emergency care in an ambulance or air ambulance shall
30 perform the care in accordance with the regulations of the State
31 Board of Nursing. A licensed physician assistant who performs
32 emergency care in an ambulance or air ambulance shall perform the
33 care in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Medical
34 Examiners.

35 7. Each licensed physician, registered nurse and licensed
36 physician assistant who serves as an attendant must have current
37 certification of completion of training in:

38 (a) Advanced life-support procedures for patients who require
39 cardiac care;

40 (b) Life-support procedures for pediatric patients who require
41 cardiac care; ~~or~~ and

42 (c) Life-support procedures for patients with trauma that are
43 administered before the arrival of those patients at a hospital.



1 ↳ The certification must be issued by the Board of Medical
2 Examiners for a physician or licensed physician assistant or by the
3 State Board of Nursing for a registered nurse.

4 8. The Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of
5 Nursing shall issue a certificate pursuant to subsection 7 if the
6 licensed physician, licensed physician assistant or registered nurse
7 attends:

8 (a) A course offered by a national organization which is
9 nationally recognized for issuing such certification;

10 (b) Training conducted by the operator of an ambulance or air
11 ambulance; or

12 (c) Any other course or training,

13 ↳ approved by the Board of Medical Examiners or the State Board
14 of Nursing, whichever is issuing the certification. ~~[The Board of
15 Medical Examiners and the State Board of Nursing may require
16 certification of training in all three areas set forth in subsection 7 for
17 a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant or registered nurse
18 who primarily serves as an attendant in a county whose population
19 is 700,000 or more.]~~

20 **Sec. 6.** NRS 450B.197 is hereby amended to read as follows:

21 450B.197 An attendant or a firefighter who is a paramedic *or*
22 *emergency medical services registered nurse* may perform any
23 procedure and administer any drug:

24 1. Approved by regulation of the board; or

25 2. Authorized pursuant to NRS 450B.1975, if the attendant or
26 firefighter who is a paramedic has obtained an endorsement
27 pursuant to that section.

28 **Sec. 7.** NRS 450B.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 450B.200 1. The health authority may issue a permit for the
30 operation of an ambulance, an air ambulance or a vehicle of a fire-
31 fighting agency at the scene of an emergency.

32 2. Each permit must be evidenced by a card issued to the
33 holder of the permit.

34 3. No permit may be issued unless the applicant is qualified
35 pursuant to the regulations of the board.

36 4. An application for a permit must be made upon forms
37 prescribed by the board and in accordance with procedures
38 established by the board, and must contain the following:

39 (a) The name and address of the owner of the ambulance or air
40 ambulance or of the fire-fighting agency;

41 (b) The name under which the applicant is doing business or
42 proposes to do business, if applicable;

43 (c) A description of each ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle of
44 a fire-fighting agency, including the make, year of manufacture and
45 chassis number, and the color scheme, insigne, name, monogram or



1 other distinguishing characteristics to be used to designate the
2 applicant's ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle;

3 (d) The location and description of the places from which the
4 ambulance, air ambulance or fire-fighting agency intends to operate;
5 and

6 (e) Such other information as the board deems reasonable and
7 necessary to a fair determination of compliance with the provisions
8 of this chapter.

9 5. The board shall establish a reasonable fee for annual
10 permits.

11 6. All permits expire on July 1 following the date of issue, and
12 are renewable annually thereafter upon payment of the fee required
13 by subsection 5 at least 30 days before the expiration date.

14 7. The health authority shall:

15 (a) Revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any permit issued
16 pursuant to this section for violation of any provision of this chapter
17 or of any regulation adopted by the board; or

18 (b) Bring an action in any court for violation of this chapter or
19 the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter,
20 ↪ only after the holder of a permit is afforded an opportunity for a
21 public hearing pursuant to regulations adopted by the board.

22 8. The health authority may suspend a permit if the holder is
23 using an ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle of a fire-fighting
24 agency which does not meet the minimum requirements for
25 equipment as established by the board pursuant to this chapter.

26 9. In determining whether to issue a permit for the operation of
27 an air ambulance pursuant to this section, the health authority:

28 (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), may consider
29 the medical aspects of the operation of an air ambulance, including,
30 without limitation, aspects related to patient care; and

31 (b) Shall not consider economic factors, including, without
32 limitation, factors related to the prices, routes or nonmedical
33 services of an air ambulance.

34 10. The issuance of a permit pursuant to this section or NRS
35 450B.210 does not authorize any person or governmental entity to
36 provide those services or to operate any ambulance, air ambulance
37 or vehicle of a fire-fighting agency not in conformity with any
38 ordinance or regulation enacted by any county, municipality or
39 special purpose district.

40 11. ~~1A~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 12, a*
41 permit issued pursuant to this section is valid throughout the State,
42 whether issued by the Division or a district board of health. An
43 ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle of a fire-fighting agency which
44 has received a permit from the district board of health in a county
45 whose population is 700,000 or more is not required to obtain a



1 permit from the Division, even if the ambulance, air ambulance or
2 vehicle of a fire-fighting agency has routine operations outside the
3 county.

4 12. *An air ambulance receiving a patient in a county whose*
5 *population is 700,000 or more must obtain a permit from the*
6 *district board of health in that county. An air ambulance receiving*
7 *a patient in any other county must obtain a permit from the*
8 *Division.*

9 13. The Division shall maintain a central registry of all permits
10 issued pursuant to this section, whether issued by the Division or a
11 district board of health.

12 ~~13.~~ 14. The board shall adopt such regulations as are
13 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

14 **Sec. 8.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2015.

