

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; 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.

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

7 **Sec. 3.** *1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,*
8 *during any period in which an air ambulance is used to provide*



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1 *medical transportation services for which a permit is required, the*
2 *air ambulance must be staffed with, at a minimum:*

3 *(a) One primary attendant who:*

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

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

6 *which includes:*

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

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

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

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

17 *(b) One secondary attendant who meets the same*
18 *qualifications as a primary attendant pursuant to paragraph (a)*
19 *or:*

20 *(1) Is certified as a paramedic;*

21 *(2) Has at least 3 years of field experience as a paramedic;*

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

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

28 *2. If, as determined by the pilot and medical director of the*
29 *air ambulance, the weight of the secondary attendant could*
30 *compromise the performance of the air ambulance, safety or*
31 *patient care, an air ambulance providing medical transportation*
32 *services may be staffed with only a primary attendant as described*
33 *in paragraph (a) of subsection 1.*

34 *3. The board may adopt regulations specifying the acceptable*
35 *documentation of the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) or*
36 *(b) of subsection 1.*

37 *4. The health authority may issue a letter of endorsement and*
38 *identification card to an emergency medical services registered*
39 *nurse or paramedic who satisfies the requirements of paragraph*
40 *(a) or (b) of subsection 1.*

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

42 450B.020 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
43 requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 450B.025 to
44 450B.110, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* have the meanings
45 ascribed to them in those sections.



1 **Sec. 5.** NRS 450B.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 450B.160 1. The health authority may issue licenses to
3 attendants and to firefighters employed by or serving as volunteers
4 with a fire-fighting agency.

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

8 3. An applicant for a license must file with the health authority:

9 (a) A current, valid certificate evidencing the applicant's
10 successful completion of a program of training as an emergency
11 medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or
12 paramedic, if the applicant is applying for a license as an attendant,
13 or, if a volunteer attendant, at a level of skill determined by the
14 board.

15 (b) A current valid certificate evidencing the applicant's
16 successful completion of a program of training as an emergency
17 medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician or
18 paramedic, if the applicant is applying for a license as a firefighter
19 with a fire-fighting agency.

20 (c) A signed statement showing:

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

22 (2) The name and address of the employer of the applicant;
23 and

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

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

27 4. The board shall adopt such regulations as it determines are
28 necessary for the issuance, suspension, revocation and renewal of
29 licenses.

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

33 6. Licensed physicians, registered nurses and licensed
34 physician assistants may serve as attendants without being licensed
35 under the provisions of this section. A registered nurse who
36 performs emergency care in an ambulance or air ambulance shall
37 perform the care in accordance with the regulations of the State
38 Board of Nursing. A licensed physician assistant who performs
39 emergency care in an ambulance or air ambulance shall perform the
40 care in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Medical
41 Examiners.

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



1 (a) Advanced life-support procedures for patients who require
2 cardiac care;

3 (b) Life-support procedures for pediatric patients who require
4 cardiac care; ~~for~~ *and*

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

7 ↪ The certification must be issued by the Board of Medical
8 Examiners for a physician or licensed physician assistant or by the
9 State Board of Nursing for a registered nurse.

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

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

16 (b) Training conducted by the operator of an ambulance or air
17 ambulance; or

18 (c) Any other course or training,

19 ↪ approved by the Board of Medical Examiners or the State Board
20 of Nursing, whichever is issuing the certification. ~~{The Board of
21 Medical Examiners and the State Board of Nursing may require
22 certification of training in all three areas set forth in subsection 7 for
23 a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant or registered nurse
24 who primarily serves as an attendant in a county whose population
25 is 700,000 or more.}~~

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

27 450B.197 An attendant or a firefighter who is a paramedic *or*
28 *emergency medical services registered nurse* may perform any
29 procedure and administer any drug:

30 1. Approved by regulation of the board; or

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

34 **Sec. 7.** (Deleted by amendment.)

35 **Sec. 8.** This act becomes effective on January 1, 2016.

