

Minutes of Meeting - HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE - 56th
ASSEMBLY SESSION - April 7, 1971

Present: Homer, Glaser, Wilson, Swallow, Valentine, and Smalley

Absent: Prince and White, ^{Finne}

Guests: Orville Warenbrock, Department of Health, Welfare
and Rehabilitation; David Finne, Department of
Nevada American Legion Assistant Adjutant.

Meeting was convened by Chairman Wilson at 4:00 P.M.

S.B. 193: Licenses and regulates ambulance, air ambulance
and school bus personnel.

David Finne, Department of Nevada American Legion Assistant
Adjutant, read a prepared statement to the Committee.
(Attachment 1)

After questioning from the Committee, Mr. Finne explained in
areas of less than 1,000 this would be a voluntary basis only.

Mr. Valentine questioned this bill from a legal standpoint.
This states it will go into effect from July 1, 1971 until
January of 1972. He felt this would allow a person to go
without any license at all for six months. He felt this bill
should have some clarification.

Mr. Wilson stated he would go to the Legislative Counsel Bureau
for clarification of this bill.

Mr. Valentine questioned how extensive of training the driver
would have to go through.

Mr. Finne stated the same training as the attendant because
they basically have the same duty in an emergency.

Mr. Swallow wanted to know who is the one that gets fined the
\$500.

Mr. Finne stated he thought it would be the employer, but was
not quite sure. It was decided that the Committee would get
clarification on this too.

Dr. Homer wanted to know how the ambulance services, themselves,
felt about this bill.

Mr. Warenbrock stated they supported it. There only complaint
is that they do not feel it is strick enough.

There will be a man that travels throughout the state to give
this training, Mr. Finne stated, on a voluntary basis to those
that wanted to take the training.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE

Date April 7, 1971 Time P.M. Recess Room 328

2-19

| <u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Counsel requested*</u> |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <u>SB-193</u> | <u>LICENSES AND REGULATES AMBULANCE, AIR</u> <u>AMBULANCE AND SCHOOL BUS PERSONNEL</u> | |
| <u>SB-337</u> | <u>MAKES HEALTH DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF</u> <u>HEALTH, WELFARE AND REHABILITATION</u> <u>RESPONSIBLE FOR LICENSING CERTAIN CARE</u> <u>FACILITIES.</u> | |
| <u>SB-613</u> | <u>PROVIDES FOR LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPY</u> <u>ASSISTANTS.</u> | |
| <u>AB-805</u> | <u>PROVIDES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST</u> <u>PHYSICIANS FOR COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION</u> <u>OF PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.</u> | |

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

HEARINGS PENDING

Date _____ Time _____ Room _____
Subject _____

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Subject _____

STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA AMERICAN LEGION
ASST. ADJUTANT DAVID FINNE TO ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE
7/6 April 1971

Senate Bill 193 would authorize the Department of Health, Welfare & Rehabilitation to license and regulate ambulance drivers and ambulance attendants.

The thrust of the bill is to require these persons to successfully complete a training program or course in advanced first aid in order to reduce the number of fatalities sustained in motor vehicle accidents on Nevada's highways.

As you know, thousands of school children are transported daily throughout Nevada. This movement on streets, roads and highways is in addition to the rapidly increasing amount of other motor vehicle traffic. Consequently, a need for the provisions of SB 193 has developed.

Quick, on the scene, first aid treatment may save the lives of any one of us, or the life of any member of our families traveling on Nevada's roads and highways.

The primary advantage of this legislation is that it will save lives.

The number of highway deaths occurring in Southern Nevada between the point of accident and the nearest hospital has been reduced from 17 in 1967 and 4 in 1970. This dramatic fatality reduction was achieved as a result of on the scene first aid. This aid was possible because of the emergency medical training accomplished by the Professional Rescue Instructors of Nevada, (PRIN).

It should also be noted that motor vehicle traffic increased during that period.

Immediate medical attention becomes most significant when one considers that there is no medical facility or medical doctor available over the hundreds of miles that separate Nevada cities and the nearest medical facility. Consequently, the emergency medical attention provided by ambulance personnel is often the deciding factor between life and death.

The training required by this bill will be funded by the federal government. This project has been approved to begin on 1 April 1971. We have the authority and federal funding. Nevada may receive a modest source of income through the receipt of licensing fees, but, in any event, the concept of providing emergency medical training will not require an expenditure of State funds and will result in the saving of lives.

Special consideration of the unique personnel problems often encountered by Nevada's smaller communities has been considered. Drivers and ambulance attendants operating in cities and towns having less than 1,000 population are exempt from the bill's provisions.

Volunteers acting in an emergency when qualified persons are not available are also exempted. All references to school bus personnel and air ambulance personnel have been omitted from the bill. 232

It should be emphasized, however, that the emergency medical training envisioned will be available to all Nevada communities regardless of size at no cost to the community. Classes have already been scheduled throughout Nevada. (Read Schedule).

The recent "Spring Trauma Seminar" conducted by the Clark County Medical Society in Las Vegas devoted a great deal of time and discussion to the subject of emergency medical training.

Because of the vast distance between the point of accident and the hospitals in Nevada and the significant amount of additional motor vehicle traffic, the need for emergency medical treatment is rapidly becoming increasingly apparent. We respectfully suggest that now is the time for the Legislature to plan ahead to reduce the death toll on Nevada's highways.

The Department of Nevada American Legion strongly supports SB 193 and urges its passage.

Thank you, sir.