

Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE

Minutes of Meeting -- March 30, 1971

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Members present: Chairman Walker
 Senator Hug
 Senator Young
 Senator Herr
 Absent: Senator Hecht

Guests: Orville Wahrenbrock, Dept. of Health, Welfare & Rehab.
 David Finne, Cl. Co. Divil Defense Agency, & Amer. Legion
 Jack Lindsay, American Legion
 Anne Roberts, League of Women Voters
 V.A. Salvadorini, M.D.
 John Osse, RT
 Eldon Phillips, RT
 Pat Mikawa, Washoe County Advisory Board

AB 226 (Further Discussion)

Dr. Salvadorini appeared in support of the bill. It would give a larger number of doners. It would also give students the opportunity to donate blood for relatives, friends etc. at a distance. He explained how, through the National Clearing House, you could donate blood for any place in the United States. There are about 15 states that now have laws such as this. In response to Senator Hug's question on how often a person could donate, Dr. Salvadorini explained they could only give blood 5 times a year, or every 8 weeks.

AB 227 Proposed by the Committee on Judiciary
 Exempts services involving human blood from strict liability.

Dr. Salvadorini said that even though there is a physical given to doners on the quality of their blood, there are some things that just cannot be detected such a hepitis which can only be detected about 15 percent of the time. He talked about an Illinois Supreme Court decision that would subject doctors and blood banks to tort liability because they ruled that the blood is a guaranteed product. He said about 10 other states have adopted legislation of this type to protect against this possibility.

Senator Young moved "Do Pass" on AB 226 and AB 227, seconded by Senator Hug and carried.

SB 323 (Further Discussion)

John Osse felt this bill was essential for the protection of the people by giving the public qualified personnel to operate the equipment. He says that Nevada has one of the best educational programs for radiological technologists there are. He also said there is a bill before the United States Senate now which will require states to implement this type of legislation. He felt SB 323 was one of the most comprehensive of its type.

Eldon Phillips said people have asked if anyone ~~is being~~ harmed by radiation right now. He said you can't say a person is being harmed right now but his children or his children's children might be. He said this is a potentially dangerous radiation source that should be controlled more than it is right now.

SB 415 (Further Discussion)

Senator Hug moved "Do Pass", seconded by Senator Young and carried.

SB 148 (Further Discussion)

The Committee asked Mrs. Mikawa some additional questions on the bill and on the proposed amendments. Mr. Wahrenbrock added his support. Senator Young moved "Amend and Do Pass," Seconded by Senator Hug and carried.

SB 193 (Further Discussion)

David Finne testified in support of the bill with the previously suggested amendments to eliminate school bus personnel and air ambulance drivers. He said also that it should not apply to ambulance drivers of towns with less than 1,000 people because they are usually volunteer. (Finne's statement attached)

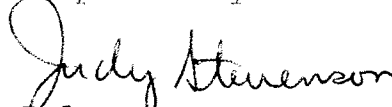
Senator Young moved "Amend and Do Pass," seconded by Senator Hug and carried.

SB 373 (Further Discussion)

Senator Young moved to hold the bill, seconded by Senator Hug and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Judy Stevenson

Approved _____

STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA AMERICAN LEGION
ASST. ADJUTANT DAVID FINNE TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE
30 March 1971

Senate Bill 193 would authorize the Department of Health, Welfare & Rehabilitation to license and regulate ambulance, air ambulance and school bus personnel.

The thrust of the bill is to require each of 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 to 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.

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 is contained in SB 193. Therefore, we recommend that drivers and ambulance attendants operating in cities and towns having less than 1,000 population be exempt from the bill's provisions. Volunteers acting in an emergency when qualified persons are not available should also be exempted. We also recommend that reference to school bus personnel and air ambulance personnel be omitted from the bill.

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.

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, subject to the revisions that have been suggested, and urges its passage.

Thank you, sir.