

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH, WELFARE AND STATE INSTITUTIONS  
MINUTES OF MEETING # 26  
APRIL 16, 1973

The meeting convened at 8:12 a.m.

Senator Walker in the Chair.

PRESENT:           Senator Young  
                  Senator Drakulich  
                  Senator Raggio

Other interested citizens, list of which is hereto attached as Exhibit A.

AB 239           Requires counties to compensate physicians on staffs of county hospitals for care of indigents and deletes requirement for rotation of staff.

Dr. Richard Cavell representing the Nevada State Medical Association testified, stating that this bill stands on it's own merit. He made analogy to pre-civil war slavery, and the 13th amendment which abolished slavery, inferring that doctors at Washoe Medical Center had not yet been freed from slavery. Further, that no one else is forced into involuntary servitude.

Senator Walker asked if this matter couldn't be handled by the county commissioners. Dr. Cavell replied 'no'. He then asked if there were any benefits to M.D.'s in county hospitals - above that of being able to use the facilities, etc.

Dr. Cavell stated that presently, under NRS 450.440, the staff of county hospitals are compelled to take care of indigent patients - which is an inequitable situation - without compensation or without any form of legal protection by the state or the county - that is, doctors are not covered under any county laws for malpractice or any other liability coverage.

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He asked if the committee would rectify this situation, by passing this bill.

Senator Raggio, making reference to subsection 2, stated that by prescribed law, the board of trustees are responsible for organizing the staff, but the amended language, specifically the word "approved" in line 6, indicates that said staff has the prerogative to prescribe medical attention or not to prescribe said attention - he asked what if the staff choose NOT to prescribe care - then what? In other words, if the requirement that physicians perform this service is deleted, what guarantee can be given that indigents will be cared for, once authority of board of trustees is removed.

Dr. Cavell stated that the problem was that upon admittance, determination of indigent was unknown. It is not determined until 2 - 3 days later.

Senator Raggio asked if Dr. Cavell and the Nevada State Medical Association had consulted Washoe Medical Center on this bill, and had obtained their approval, to which Dr. Cavell replied that he did not know.

Dr. Cavell stated that the intent of this bill was to remove the rotation of staff regulation, so that indigent care would be voluntary.

Senator Drakulich asked what happens if no one wants to take their turn?

Dr. Cavell stated that the hospital has employed three physicians to take care of indigents.

Senator Young reconfirmed that the admitted fact that this bill would essentially remove authority of the board of trustees.

Dr. Cavell stated that a three months study done at Washoe Medical shows a proposed savings to the county of \$64,000.00 if the plan were to be adopted. Refer to Exhibit B, hereto attached.

Senator Young asked how much would it cost if the plan were adopted. Dr. Cavell replied 'nothing'...that the study shows that \$180,000.00 worth of indigent care per year is given free. At present, there are approximately 150 Physicians giving indigent care.

Mr. Leavitt, Clark County Commissioner spoke as next witness, opposing this bill. He explained that at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, less than one half of Clark County physicians were on the staff, and if physicians don't want to take their turn at caring for the indigent, they don't become a member of the staff. In other words, there would be no guarantee of care for the indigent. Further, that private patients would end up paying the tab on this, if passed.

Dr. Broadbent testified in favor of this bill. He stated that doctors were not going to turn their backs on the sick - indigent or otherwise. But he felt that this bill would restrict doctors in the future who wanted to take over the care of the indigent - this statement made in lieu of his expressed hopes that Washoe Medical Center would one day soon initiate an interne program. For the time being, however, he would like to see doctors compensated for services to the indigent, to guarantee that they will receive adequate care. At present, under the present system, this is not being accomplished due to the lack of continuity.

Mr. Leavitt stated that \$75,000.00 per month was paid to Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital out of county funds for medical indigents. "If you are going to make us pay for doctors on top of the hospital fees and care, we are going to have to get it somewhere else, because if we don't have the money, we can't provide it."

After further discussion, AB 239 was tabled, pending re-scheduling of hearings.

AB 883

Increases fee and time period limitations in any ordinance requiring physical examination for food handlers.

Mr. Gil Blonsley, Clark County Health Department, stated that this bill merely corrects the amount of money set by ordinance that the county charges for food handlers' fees. Currently it is the obligation of the Health Department to license all food handlers in their jurisdiction for \$2.00. Currently, in Clark County, we issued over 40,000 exams for food handlers last year, and the expense involved was double the fee charged.

Senator Walker asked that 2 years was a long time to discover V.D., was it not? Mr. Blonsley stated that his department did not screen for V.D. - only T.B. etc., through x-ray. seriology only determines V.D. at the moment of the exam.

Senator Young asked if there were anybody who opposed this bill. Mr. Blonsley replied the Culinary Union was opposed.

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wanting to keep the exam price low as possible. Mr. Blonsley would like to see it raised, to minimize the losses incurred by the community.

Senator Young moved for a "Do Pass", motion was seconded and duly carried.

AB 776 Permits local boards of health to adopt fee schedules for health permits and licenses.

Mr. Blonsley testified on this also, favoring the bill, which would allow counties to recapture substantial costs for these services.

Senator Raggio asked who determined schedule of said fees. Mr. Blonsley stated tht they were established by county ordinance. But since these services were performed in both counties and cities, fee established was inadequate to cover the cost of same. Senator Walker asked if he could not get the county to change the ordinances to take care of this, to which he replied, 'yes', but that wouldn't take care of the costs involved in the cities. He would like to see a blanket fee schedule established, by an area-wide board.

Senator Raggio suggested amending this bill as follows:  
Page 1, line 14: 5. Insert "propose" ... (delete "adopt")  
..a schedule of reasonable fees...insert  
"Such fee schedule maybe adopted by  
the governing body - either the county comm-  
issioners or the city commissioners..."

Senator Raggio moved for a "Do Pass as amended"..The motion was seconded, and duly carried.

Notation of Addition to the minutes:

SB 274: Provides a physician's assistance program for the state of Nevada.


This bill, which was killed 3/30/73 (#19) - was revived at the request of the osteopathy board and profession, and amended as per their request, concurrent with committee approval.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo Ann N. Hughes, Secretary

APPROVED:

Lee Walker, Chairman



ASSEMBLY BILL 239 - INDIGENT CARE  
 A Three Month Study - Washoe County (121 Patients)  
 1972

1.) Cost of Care Provided (Gratus)					2.) County Bill (Washoe Med. Center)		
# Cases	Surgical Care	1972	Anes. Cost	Consult. Cost	Total Cost	Average Patient Stay in Days	
Oct. - 22	@	6,670	1,485	1,130	9,285	11.3	\$ 95,950.49
Nov. - 11	@	4,245	940	815	6,000	9.1	78,122.31
Dec. - 25	@	11,915	2,705	1,170	15,790	9.5	85,014.81
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>22,830</b>	<b>5,130</b>	<b>3,115</b>	<b>31,075</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>259,087.61 (3 months</b>

(Above Costs Based on California Relative Value Studies - 1964 Multiple 8.5 - Usual & Customary Charges) to (1)

- I Average Length of Stay ALL Patients (including indigents) 1972 Washoe Medical Center 6.7 Days
- II Average Length of Stay Indigent Patients (extrapolated 1972 Washoe Medical Center 9.9 Days (9.97)  
Oct-Dec '72)
- III Difference between I and II = 3.2 days
- IV Average Cost per day at Washoe Medical Center = \$123.00 (ref. WMC Administrator)
- V Average Cost of Stay per Indigent Patient in Excess over Average Patient =  $\$123 \times 3.2 = \$393.60$
- VI Average # of Patients per Month =  $40 (121 \div 3 \text{ Oct-Nov-Dec '72})$
- VII Difference in Cost Indigents vs Non-Indigent Patient per Month -  $40 \times 393.60 = 15,744.00$
- VIII Average Cost of Care Provided Gratus by Staff per Month -  $(31,075 \div 3) = 10,358$
- IX Proposed Savings per Month by Implimentation of Fee for Service Based on "Usual & Customary Fee" \$5,386.00
- X Proposed Savings to County (extrapolated 12 months) - \$64,632.00

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Exhibit B  
 # 24 - 4-16-73  
 AB 239

4-16

Do Pass

**A. B. 883**

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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 883—MRS. BROOKMAN

MARCH 28, 1973

Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

SUMMARY—Increases fee and time period limitations in any ordinance requiring physical examination for food handlers. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 20-1939)

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to health and safety; increasing fee and time period limitations in any ordinance requiring physical examinations for food handlers.

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. NRS 244.369 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 244.369 1. Subject to the limitations contained in subsection 2, any  
3 board of county commissioners may by ordinance require that any food  
4 handler, as defined in NRS 446.030, submit to physical examination as  
5 a prerequisite to engaging in or continuing to engage in such occupation.  
6 2. Any ordinance enacted pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1  
7 shall provide that no food handler [shall be] is required to pay in excess  
8 of [ \$2 ] \$4 for any or all required physical examinations in any [one  
9 12-month] 2-year period.

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Do Pass as amended

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

FIRST REPRINT

A. B. 776

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 776—MR. HAYES

MARCH 22, 1973

Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

SUMMARY—Permits local boards of health to adopt fee schedules for health permits and licenses. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 40-1710)



EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to public health; permitting local boards of health under certain conditions to adopt fee schedules for health permits and licenses obtained therefrom; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. NRS 439.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 439.360 The county board of health shall have the power:  
3 1. To abate nuisances in accordance with law.  
4 2. To establish and maintain an isolation hospital or quarantine sta-  
5 tion when necessary.  
6 3. To restrain, quarantine and disinfect any person sick with or  
7 exposed to any contagious or infectious disease, dangerous to the public  
8 health.  
9 4. To appoint quarantine officers when necessary to enforce quar-  
10 antine, and shall provide whatever medicines, disinfectants and provi-  
11 sions which may be required, and shall arrange for the payment of all  
12 debts or charges so incurred from any funds available; but each patient  
13 shall, if able, pay for his food, medicine, clothes and medical attendance.  
14 5. *Subject to the prior review and approval of the county commission,*  
15 *to adopt a schedule of reasonable fees to be collected for issuing or renew-*  
16 *ing any health permit or license required to be obtained from such board*  
17 *pursuant to state law or ordinance adopted by any political subd.vision.*  
18 *Such fees shall be for the sole purpose of defraying the costs and expenses*  
19 *of the licensing and permit procedures and investigations related thereto*  
20 *and not for general revenue purposes.*  
21 SEC. 2. NRS 439.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
22 439.470 The city board of health shall have the power:  
23 1. To abate nuisances in accordance with law.  
24 2. To establish a temporary isolation hospital or quarantine station  
25 when emergency demands.

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Do Pass as amended

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

SECOND REPRINT

S. B. 274

SENATE BILL NO. 274—SENATOR MONROE

FEBRUARY 19, 1973

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and State Institutions

SUMMARY—Provides a physician's assistant program for the State of Nevada. Fiscal Note: No. (BDR 54-837)

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the practice of osteopathic medicine, surgery and obstetrics; providing for the employment and supervision of osteopathic physicians' assistants with the approval of the board of osteopathy of the State of Nevada; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 633 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
2 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.  
3 SEC. 2. 1. *The legislature finds that many communities in the State*  
4 *of Nevada are without the services of a physician or an osteopathic phy-*  
5 *sician and that the supply of physicians and osteopathic physicians in*  
6 *many rural areas of the state is inadequate to meet the reasonably antici-*  
7 *ipated and the actual health requirements of the residents of such com-*  
8 *munities and areas.*  
9 2. *The purpose of sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act is to promote*  
10 *a more comprehensive application of the skills of osteopathic physicians*  
11 *in this state by enabling them to delegate certain of their health care*  
12 *responsibilities to qualified osteopathic physicians' assistants under pro-*  
13 *fessionally approved circumstances and in keeping with board standards.*  
14 SEC. 3. *As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:*  
15 1. *"Employing osteopathic physician" means an osteopathic physi-*  
16 *cian licensed in this state who employs and supervises an osteopathic*  
17 *physician's assistant with board approval.*  
18 2. *"Osteopathic physician's assistant" means a person who is a grad-*  
19 *uate of a board-approved program of health care training and who is*  
20 *approved by the board to perform medical services under the supervision*  
21 *of an employing osteopathic physician.*  
22 SEC. 4. *An osteopathic physician's assistant may perform such medi-*  
23 *cal services as the board has authorized, if such services are performed*

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Original bill is 3 pages long.  
Contact the Research Library for  
a copy of the complete bill.