

Committee in Session at 9 am on Monday, May 21, 1979.

Senator Keith Ashworth in the Chair.

PRESENT: Chairman Keith Ashworth  
Vice-Chairman Joe Neal  
Senator Clifton Young  
Senator Rick Blakemore  
Senator Wilbur Faiss  
Senator Jim Kosinski

GUESTS: Assemblyman John Marvel, Assembly District No. 34  
Mr. William McDonald, District Attorney, Humboldt  
County

Chairman Ashworth opened the hearing on A.B. 825.

Assemblyman John Marvel, Assembly District No. 34, and Mr. William McDonald, District Attorney, Humboldt County, spoke in support of A.B. 825. Assemblyman Marvel stated that the bill is a request of primarily Humboldt County and is "small county legislation." He stated that the small counties do concur with the amendments provided for in the bill. Mr. McDonald stated that the bill has the support of the majority of the rural district attorneys with the exception of two he was unable to contact but their counties do not have hospitals. Mr. McDonald stated that the main concern is the ability of the rural counties to attract doctors and during the past years, they have been providing various services to assist doctors. He said that providing these services is not specifically in present law; there is nothing that says this is not permitted but the authority could be challenged. He said he felt it is now time to have the proper authority spelled out in the statutes.

Chairman Ashworth questioned if the law was necessary to provide these services. Mr. McDonald stated that there have been instances in the past where the legal authority would have been helpful.

Senator Blakemore questioned if Washoe County and Clark County were exempt under this bill. Mr. McDonald stated that they are not but sees no problem with having the large counties included.

Senator Neal questioned if past legislation whereby counties could assist in a medical student's education providing they returned to the area has, in fact, worked. Mr. McDonald stated that it has and some are due to return soon. He said the small counties are very interested in obtaining doctors and their efforts are indicative.

Senator Kosinski questioned why the bill should not be limited to small counties. Mr. McDonald stated that he has been led to believe that legislation should not be classified by counties and did not feel this was necessary to class by counties.

Senator Kosinski expressed concern because the Washoe County board of hospital trustees is controlled by the medical community and the possibility of abuses could exist. He expressed opposition to the bill for that reason. Mr. McDonald stated that they attempted to address that problem by providing for approval by the board of county commissioners as to leasing facilities. Senator Kosinski stated that the provisions on Page 3 are not addressed in that manner. Mr. McDonald stated that he believes that could be the existing policy under present law. Senator Young stated that he believed so as well. Mr. McDonald also noted that doctors had to work in the existing hospitals as theirs was "the only game in town;" in Washoe County and Clark County, other hospitals are available. Senator Kosinski expressed concern as an extensive program was enacted to provide for rural care in the past but with subsequent sessions, more legislation is enacted but nothing seems to work. Mr. McDonald stated that it is not easy to get people to move to small towns. Senator Blakemore said that high salaries also do not exist in small towns. Mr. Marvel stated that a big problem in his area was obtaining tenured doctors. He stated that this bill is permissive and the small counties are paying for it at their level.

Senator Neal expressed support of the bill because he felt medical care is very necessary.

Chairman Ashworth questioned if there would be objection to amending the bill with a population clause. Mr. McDonald stated that he would not but said there may be instances that this could be a problem. Senator Neal stated that there was a population clause. Mr. McDonald stated that the clause would only apply to book-keeping techniques and would not address the problem discussed.

A.B. 825 (Exhibit "A")

Senator Neal moved to "Do Pass" A.B. 825.

Seconded by Senator Faiss.

Motion carried.

Yeas -- 5

Nays -- Senator Kosinski

As to A.B. 541, Chairman Ashworth stated that problems had been expressed regarding the bill. He said that there were individuals who wished to testify who had not had the opportunity before. Senator Kosinski stated that the bill has been in the process for two months and suggested a hearing be scheduled as soon as possible.

Chairman Ashworth suggested that the bill return to committee and a hearing be scheduled for May 22, 1979. Senator Neal stated that he believed a hearing could be held but the bill should remain in the jurisdiction of the body. He suggested amending it on the floor. Senator Kosinski and Senator Young concurred. Concern was expressed that the bill may be "killed" and the committee concurred that this was not the intent. Chairman Ashworth expressed concern at having a hearing without the bill. Senator Kosinski stated that he did not feel it would be necessary. Chairman Ashworth directed that a hearing be scheduled for May 22, 1979.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Roni Ronemus  
Committee Secretary

Approved:

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Chairman  
Senator Keith Ashworth

(REPRINTED WITH ADOPTED AMENDMENTS)

FIRST REPRINT

A. B. 825

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 825—COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

MAY 4, 1979

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Authorizes boards of hospital trustees to offer certain inducements to physicians. (BDR 40-2031)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [ ] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to county hospitals; authorizing the boards of hospital trustees to offer certain assistance to physicians; 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 450.250 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2 450.250 1. The board of hospital trustees [shall] have the exclusive  
3 control of:  
4 (a) The expenditures of all [moneys] money collected to the credit  
5 of the hospital fund.  
6 (b) The purchase of the site or sites.  
7 (c) The purchase or construction of any hospital building or build-  
8 ings.  
9 (d) The supervision, care and custody of the grounds, rooms or build-  
10 ings purchased, constructed, leased or set apart for that purpose.  
11 2. *With the approval of the board of county commissioners, the*  
12 *board of hospital trustees may lease buildings for medical purposes or*  
13 *for purposes of related health care activities.*  
14 3. All [moneys] money received for the hospital [shall] *must* be  
15 deposited in the county treasury of the county in which the hospital is  
16 situated to the credit of the hospital fund, and paid out only upon war-  
17 rants drawn by the board of hospital trustees of the county or counties  
18 upon properly authenticated vouchers of the board of hospital trustees,  
19 after *their* approval [of the same] by the county auditor, except as pro-  
20 vided in subsection [3.] 4.  
21 [3.] 4. All [moneys] money received for a hospital which is located

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