

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 409—ASSEMBLYMEN GUSTAVSON, NOLAN, BEERS, BROWER, LESLIE, EVANS, CEGAVSKE, HETTRICK, LEE, BERMAN, VON TOBEL, CARPENTER, GIBBONS, ANGLE, TIFFANY, FREEMAN, BACHE, ANDERSON, ARBERRY, PARKS, OHRENSCHALL, PRICE, BUCKLEY, GIUNCHIGLIANI, THOMAS AND CHOWNING

MARCH 5, 1999

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Extends limited immunity from liability regarding emergency care. (BDR 3-875)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: 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 emergency care; extending limited immunity from liability regarding the use of automated defibrillators and related training; extending limited immunity from liability to licensed practical nurses for providing or supervising certain emergency care; extending limited immunity from liability to certain providers of health care licensed in another state who render emergency care to persons in this state; conforming certain related provision regarding the occupational safety program; 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 41.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 41.500 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 41.505, any person
3 in this state who renders emergency care or assistance in an emergency,
4 gratuitously and in good faith, is not liable for any civil damages as a result
5 of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by him in
6 rendering the emergency care or assistance or as a result of any act or
7 failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to provide or arrange for
8 further medical treatment for the injured person.
9 2. Any person in this state who acts as a driver of an ambulance or
10 attendant on an ambulance operated by a volunteer service or as a volunteer
11 driver or attendant on an ambulance operated by a political subdivision of

1 this state, or owned by the Federal Government and operated by a
2 contractor of the Federal Government, and who in good faith renders
3 emergency care or assistance to any injured or ill person, whether at the
4 scene of an emergency or while transporting an injured or ill person to or
5 from any clinic, doctor's office or other medical facility, is not liable for
6 any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross
7 negligence, by him in rendering the emergency care or assistance, or as a
8 result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to
9 provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured or ill
10 person.

11 3. Any appointed member of a volunteer service operating an
12 ambulance or an appointed volunteer serving on an ambulance operated by
13 a political subdivision of this state, other than a driver or attendant, of an
14 ambulance, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or
15 omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by him whenever he is
16 performing his duties in good faith.

17 4. Any person who is a member of a search and rescue organization in
18 this state under the direct supervision of any county sheriff who in good
19 faith renders care or assistance in an emergency to any injured or ill person,
20 whether at the scene of an emergency or while transporting an injured or ill
21 person to or from any clinic, doctor's office or other medical facility, is not
22 liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not
23 amounting to gross negligence, by him in rendering the emergency care or
24 assistance, or as a result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross
25 negligence, to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the
26 injured or ill person.

27 5. Any person who is employed by or serves as a volunteer for a public
28 fire-fighting agency and who is authorized pursuant to chapter 450B of
29 NRS to render emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency is not
30 liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not
31 amounting to gross negligence, by that person in rendering that care or as a
32 result of any act or failure to act, not amounting to gross negligence, to
33 provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the injured or ill
34 person.

35 6. Any person who:

36 (a) Has successfully completed a course in cardiopulmonary
37 resuscitation according to the guidelines of the American National Red
38 Cross or American Heart Association;

39 (b) Has successfully completed the training requirements of a course in
40 basic emergency care of a person in cardiac arrest conducted in accordance
41 with the standards of the American Heart Association; or

(c) Is directed by the instructions of a dispatcher for an ambulance, air ambulance or other agency that provides emergency medical services before its arrival at the scene of the emergency, and who in good faith renders cardiopulmonary resuscitation in accordance with his training or the direction, other than in the course of his regular employment or profession, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by that person in rendering that care.

7. For the purposes of subsection 6, a person who:

(a) Is required to be certified in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation pursuant to NRS 391.092; and

(b) In good faith renders cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the property of a public school or in connection with a transportation of pupils to or from a public school or while on activities that are part of the program of a public school,

shall be presumed to have acted other than in the course of his regular employment or profession.

8. Any person who ~~has~~ :

~~(a) Has~~ successfully completed ~~the training requirements of a course in basic emergency care of a person in cardiac arrest that:~~

~~—(a) Included training~~ *a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and training* in the operation and use of an ~~automatic~~ *automated* external defibrillator ~~;~~ and

~~—(b) Was~~ *that were* conducted in accordance with the standards of the American Heart Association ~~;~~ and ~~who~~ *or the American National Red Cross; and*

(b) Gratuitously and in good faith renders emergency medical care involving the use of an ~~automatic~~ *automated* external defibrillator in accordance with his training , is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by that person in rendering that care.

9. A ~~business or organization that employs~~ *person or governmental entity that provided the requisite training set forth in subsection 8 to* a person who renders emergency care in accordance with ~~this~~ subsection 8 is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by the person rendering such care . ~~or~~

10. *A business or organization that has placed an automated external defibrillator for use on its premises is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, by the person rendering such care or* for providing the ~~automatic~~ *automated* external defibrillator to the person for the purpose of rendering such care ~~;~~ *if the business or organization:*

1 (a) *Complies with all current federal and state regulations governing*
2 *the use and placement of an automated external defibrillator;*

3 (b) *Ensures that only a person who has at least the qualifications set*
4 *forth in subsection 8 uses the automated external defibrillator to provide*
5 *care;*

6 (c) *Ensures that the automated external defibrillator is maintained*
7 *and tested according to the operational guidelines established by the*
8 *manufacturer; and*

9 (d) *Establishes and maintains a program to ensure compliance with*
10 *current regulations, requirements for training, requirements for*
11 *notification of emergency medical assistance and guidelines for the*
12 *maintenance of the equipment.*

13 11. *As used in this section, “gratuitously” means that the person*
14 *receiving care or assistance is not required or expected to pay any*
15 *compensation or other remuneration for receiving the care or assistance.*

16 **Sec. 2.** NRS 41.505 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 41.505 1. Any physician or registered nurse who in good faith gives
18 instruction or provides supervision to an emergency medical attendant or
19 ~~to a~~ registered nurse, at the scene of an emergency or while transporting
20 an ill or injured person from the scene of an emergency, is not liable for
21 any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, not amounting to gross
22 negligence, in giving that instruction or providing that supervision. An
23 emergency medical attendant , ~~or~~ registered nurse *or licensed practical*
24 *nurse* who obeys an instruction given by a physician , ~~or~~ registered nurse
25 *or licensed practical nurse* and thereby renders emergency care, at the
26 scene of an emergency or while transporting an ill or injured person from
27 the scene of an emergency, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of
28 any act or omission, not amounting to gross negligence, in rendering that
29 emergency care.

30 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, any person licensed
31 under the provisions of chapter 630, 632 or 633 of NRS ~~is~~ *and any person*
32 *who holds an equivalent license issued by another state*, who renders
33 emergency care or assistance in an emergency, gratuitously and in good
34 faith, is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission,
35 not amounting to gross negligence, by him in rendering the emergency care
36 or assistance or as a result of any failure to act, not amounting to gross
37 negligence, to provide or arrange for further medical treatment for the
38 injured or ill person. This section does not excuse a physician or nurse from
39 liability for damages resulting from his acts or omissions which occur in a
40 licensed medical facility relative to any person with whom there is a
41 preexisting relationship as a patient.

42 3. Any person licensed under the provisions of chapter 630, 632 or 633
43 of NRS *and any person who holds an equivalent license issued by*

1 **another state** who renders emergency obstetrical care or assistance to a
2 pregnant woman during labor or the delivery of the child is not liable for
3 any civil damages as a result of any act or omission by him in rendering
4 that care or assistance if:

5 (a) The care or assistance is rendered in good faith and in a manner not
6 amounting to gross negligence or reckless, willful or wanton conduct;

7 (b) The person has not previously provided prenatal or obstetrical care
8 to the woman; and

9 (c) The damages are reasonably related to or primarily caused by a lack
10 of prenatal care received by the woman.

11 A licensed medical facility in which such care or assistance is rendered is
12 not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission by the
13 person in rendering that care or assistance if that person is not liable for any
14 civil damages pursuant to this subsection and the actions of the medical
15 facility relating to the rendering of that care or assistance do not amount to
16 gross negligence or reckless, willful or wanton conduct.

17 4. Any person licensed under the provisions of chapter 630, 632 or 633
18 of NRS **and any person who holds an equivalent license issued by**
19 **another state** who:

20 (a) Is retired or otherwise does not practice on a full-time basis; and

21 (b) Gratuitously and in good faith, renders medical care within the scope
22 of his license to an indigent person,
23 is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission by him,
24 not amounting to gross negligence or reckless, willful or wanton conduct, in
25 rendering that care.

26 5. As used in this section ~~["emergency"]~~:

27 (a) **"Emergency medical attendant"** means a person licensed as an
28 attendant or certified as an emergency medical technician, intermediate
29 emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician
30 pursuant to chapter 450B of NRS.

31 (b) **"Gratuitously" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 41.500.**

32 **Sec. 3.** NRS 618.384 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 618.384 The administrator shall encourage all employers who are
34 required to establish a written safety program pursuant to NRS 618.383 to
35 include as a part of that program the employment of a person who has
36 successfully completed the training requirements of a course in basic
37 emergency care of a person in cardiac arrest that:

38 1. Included training in the operation and use of an ~~automatic~~
39 **automated** external defibrillator; and

40 2. Was conducted in accordance with the standards of the American
41 Heart Association ~~[""]~~ **or the American National Red Cross.**