

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 173—ASSEMBLYMEN NOLAN, CHOWNING, DE BRAGA, FREEMAN, DINI, ANDERSON, ANGLE, ARBERRY, BACHE, BERMAN, BROWER, BROWN, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CEGAVSKE, CLABORN, GIUNCHIGLIANI, HETTRICK, KOIVISTO, LESLIE, MANENDO, MARVEL, OCEGUERA, PARKS, PRICE, SMITH, TIFFANY, VON TOBEL AND WILLIAMS

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Expands circumstances under which emergency life-resuscitating treatment may be withheld from patient in terminal condition. (BDR 40-437)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: 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 medical services; expanding the circumstances under which treatment may be withheld from a patient in a terminal condition who wishes not to be resuscitated in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest; authorizing the parent or legal guardian of a minor to obtain a do-not-resuscitate identification on behalf of the minor under certain circumstances; 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 450B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto
- 2 the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act.
- 3 **Sec. 2.** *“Attending physician” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS*
- 4 *449.550.*
- 5 **Sec. 3.** *“Terminal condition” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS*
- 6 *449.590.*
- 7 **Sec. 4.** *The board may enter into an agreement for the manufacture*
- 8 *of a bracelet or medallion to be worn by a qualified patient which*
- 9 *indicates that the qualified patient has been issued a do-not-resuscitate*
- 10 *identification. Such a bracelet or medallion may be issued to a qualified*
- 11 *patient in addition to, and not in lieu of, the do-not-resuscitate*
- 12 *identification.*



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1     **Sec. 5.**   1.   *A parent or legal guardian of a minor may apply to the*  
2     *health authority for a do-not-resuscitate identification on behalf of the*  
3     *minor if the minor has been:*

4         (a) *Determined by his attending physician to be in a terminal*  
5         *condition; and*

6         (b) *Issued a do-not-resuscitate order pursuant to NRS 450B.510.*

7     2.   *To obtain such a do-not-resuscitate identification, the parent or*  
8     *legal guardian must:*

9         (a) *Submit an application on a form provided by the health authority;*  
10         *and*

11         (b) *Comply with the requirements prescribed by the board.*

12     3.   *An application submitted pursuant to subsection 2 must include,*  
13     *without limitation:*

14         (a) *Certification by the minor's attending physician that the minor:*

15             (1) *Suffers from a terminal condition; and*

16             (2) *Has been issued a do-not resuscitate order pursuant to NRS*  
17     *450B.510;*

18         (b) *A statement that the parent or legal guardian of the minor does*  
19         *not wish that life-resuscitating treatment be undertaken in the event of a*  
20         *cardiac or respiratory arrest;*

21         (c) *The name of the minor;*

22         (d) *The name, signature and telephone number of the minor's*  
23         *attending physician; and*

24         (e) *The name, signature and telephone number of the minor's parent*  
25         *or legal guardian.*

26     4.   *Except as otherwise provided in this section, the parent or legal*  
27     *guardian of the minor may revoke the authorization to withhold life-*  
28     *resuscitating treatment by removing or destroying or requesting the*  
29     *removal or destruction of the identification or otherwise indicating to a*  
30     *person that he wishes to have the identification removed or destroyed.*

31     5.   *If, in the opinion of the attending physician, the minor is of*  
32     *sufficient maturity to understand the nature and effect of withholding*  
33     *life-resuscitating treatment:*

34         (a) *The do-not-resuscitate identification obtained pursuant to this*  
35         *section is not effective without the assent of the minor.*

36         (b) *The minor may revoke the authorization to withhold life-*  
37         *resuscitating treatment by removing or destroying or requesting the*  
38         *removal or destruction of the identification or otherwise indicating to a*  
39         *person that he wishes to have the identification removed or destroyed.*

40         (c) *The parent or legal guardian of the minor may not revoke the*  
41         *authorization to withhold life-resuscitating treatment without the assent*  
42         *of the minor.*

43     **Sec. 6.**   NRS 450B.400 is hereby amended to read as follows:

44     450B.400 As used in NRS 450B.400 to 450B.590, inclusive, *and*  
45     *sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires,  
46     the words and terms defined in NRS 450B.410 to 450B.470, inclusive, *and*  
47     *sections 2 and 3 of this act*, have the meanings ascribed to them in those  
48     sections.



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1     **Sec. 7.** NRS 450B.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2     450B.470 "Qualified patient" ~~has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS~~  
3 ~~449.585~~ *means:*

4     1. *A patient 18 years of age or older who has been determined by his*  
5 *attending physician to be in a terminal condition and who:*

6     (a) *Has executed a declaration in accordance with the requirements of*  
7 *NRS 449.600; or*

8     (b) *Has been issued a do-not-resuscitate order pursuant to NRS*  
9 *450B.510.*

10    2. *A patient who is less than 18 years of age and who:*

11    (a) *Has been determined by his attending physician to be in a terminal*  
12 *condition; and*

13    (b) *Has been issued a do-not-resuscitate order pursuant to NRS*  
14 *450B.510.*

15     **Sec. 8.** NRS 450B.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16     450B.480 The provisions of NRS 450B.400 to 450B.590, inclusive,  
17 *and sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act,* apply only to emergency medical  
18 services administered to a qualified patient ~~before~~ :

19     1. *Before* he is admitted to a medical facility ~~+~~ ; *or*

20     2. *While the qualified patient is being prepared to be transferred, or*  
21 *is being transferred, from one health care facility to another health care*  
22 *facility.*

23     **Sec. 9.** NRS 450B.490 is hereby amended to read as follows:

24     450B.490 1. The board shall adopt regulations to carry out the  
25 provisions of NRS 450B.400 to 450B.590, inclusive ~~+~~ , *and sections 2 to*  
26 *5, inclusive, of this act.* The regulations must establish:

27     (a) A do-not-resuscitate protocol; and

28     (b) The procedure to apply for a do-not-resuscitate identification.

29     2. The board may establish a fee for ~~+~~ :

30     (a) *A* do-not-resuscitate identification to be collected by the health  
31 authority. The fee may not exceed the actual cost to the health authority of:

32     ~~+(a)~~ (1) Manufacturing or obtaining the identification from a  
33 manufacturer, including the cost of shipping and handling; and

34     ~~+(b)~~ (2) Engraving the identification.

35     (b) *The issuance of a bracelet or medallion which indicates that a do-*  
36 *not-resuscitate identification has been issued to a qualified patient.*

37     3. In the case of a county or district board of health, such regulations  
38 take effect immediately upon approval by the state board of health.

39     **Sec. 10.** NRS 450B.510 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40     450B.510 1. A physician licensed in this state may issue a written  
41 do-not-resuscitate order only to a ~~qualified patient~~ :

42     ~~2. The~~ *patient who has been determined to be in a terminal*  
43 *condition.*

44     2. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the order is effective*  
45 *only if the patient has agreed to its terms, in writing, while he is capable of*  
46 *making an informed decision.*

47     3. *If the patient is a minor, the order is effective:*

48     (a) *Only if the minor has agreed to its terms, in writing, while he is*  
49 *capable of making an informed decision if, in the opinion of the*



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1 *attending physician, the minor is of sufficient maturity to understand the*  
2 *nature and effect of withholding life-resuscitating treatment; or*

3 *(b) Otherwise, only if the parent or legal guardian of the minor has*  
4 *agreed to its terms, in writing.*

5 4. A physician who issues a do-not-resuscitate order may apply, on  
6 behalf of the patient, to the health authority for a do-not-resuscitate  
7 identification for that patient.

8 **Sec. 11.** NRS 450B.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 450B.520 *Except as otherwise provided in section 5 of this act:*

10 1. A qualified patient may apply to the health authority for a do-not-  
11 resuscitate identification by submitting an application on a form provided  
12 by the health authority. To obtain a do-not-resuscitate identification, the  
13 patient must comply with the requirements prescribed by the board and  
14 sign a form which states that he has informed each member of his family  
15 within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity, whose whereabouts are  
16 known to him, or if no such members are living, his legal guardian, if any,  
17 or if he has no such members living and has no legal guardian, his  
18 caretaker, if any, of his decision to apply for an identification.

19 2. An application must include, without limitation:

20 (a) Certification by the patient's attending physician that the patient  
21 suffers from a terminal condition;

22 (b) Certification by the patient's attending physician that the patient ~~is~~  
23 ~~(1) is~~ *is* capable of making an informed decision ~~is~~ ~~or~~

24 ~~(2) When~~ *or, when* he was capable of making an informed decision  
25 ~~is~~ :

26 (1) *He* executed:

27 (I) A written directive that life-resuscitating treatment be withheld  
28 under certain circumstances; or

29 (II) A durable power of attorney for health care pursuant to NRS  
30 449.800 to 449.860, inclusive; *or*

31 (2) *He was issued a do-not-resuscitate order pursuant to NRS*  
32 *450B.510;*

33 (c) A statement that the patient does not wish that life-resuscitating  
34 treatment be undertaken in the event of a cardiac or respiratory arrest;

35 (d) The name, signature and telephone number of the patient's attending  
36 physician; and

37 (e) The name and signature of the patient or the attorney in fact who is  
38 authorized to make health care decisions on the patient's behalf pursuant to  
39 a durable power of attorney for health care.

40 **Sec. 12.** NRS 450B.530 is hereby amended to read as follows:

41 450B.530 ~~is~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 5 of this act, a*  
42 *qualified patient who possesses a do-not-resuscitate identification may*  
43 *revoke his authorization to withhold life-resuscitating treatment by*  
44 *removing or destroying or requesting the removal or destruction of his*  
45 *identification or otherwise indicating to a person that he wishes to have his*  
46 *identification removed or destroyed.*

47 **Sec. 13.** NRS 450B.540 is hereby amended to read as follows:

48 450B.540 1. A person is not guilty of unprofessional conduct or  
49 subject to civil or criminal liability if he:



- 1 (a) Is a physician who ~~causes~~ :
- 2 (1) *Causes* the withholding of life-resuscitating treatment from a
- 3 qualified patient who possesses a do-not-resuscitate identification in
- 4 accordance with the do-not-resuscitate protocol; *or*
- 5 (2) *While the patient is being prepared to be transferred, or is being*
- 6 *transferred, from one health care facility to another health care facility,*
- 7 *carries out a do-not-resuscitate order that is documented in the medical*
- 8 *record of a qualified patient, in accordance with the do-not-resuscitate*
- 9 *protocol;*
- 10 (b) Pursuant to the direction of or with the authorization of a physician,
- 11 participates in ~~the~~ :
- 12 (1) *The* withholding of life-resuscitating treatment from a qualified
- 13 patient who possesses a do-not-resuscitate identification in accordance with
- 14 the do-not-resuscitate protocol; *or*
- 15 (2) *While the patient is being prepared to be transferred, or is being*
- 16 *transferred, from one health care facility to another health care facility,*
- 17 *carrying out a do-not-resuscitate order that is documented in the medical*
- 18 *record of a qualified patient, in accordance with the do-not-resuscitate*
- 19 *protocol;* *or*
- 20 (c) Administers emergency medical services and ~~causes~~ :
- 21 (1) *Causes* or participates in the withholding of life-resuscitating
- 22 treatment from a qualified patient who possesses a do-not-resuscitate
- 23 identification ~~or carries~~ ;
- 24 (2) *Before a qualified patient is admitted to a medical facility,*
- 25 *carries* out a do-not-resuscitate order that has been issued in accordance
- 26 with the do-not-resuscitate protocol ~~+~~ ; *or*
- 27 (3) *While the patient is being prepared to be transferred, or is being*
- 28 *transferred, from one health care facility to another health care facility,*
- 29 *carries out a do-not-resuscitate order that is documented in the medical*
- 30 *record of a qualified patient, in accordance with the do-not-resuscitate*
- 31 *protocol.*
- 32 2. A health care facility, ambulance service or fire-fighting agency that
- 33 employs a person described in subsection 1 is not guilty of unprofessional
- 34 conduct or subject to civil or criminal liability for the acts or omissions of
- 35 the employee carried out in accordance with the provisions of subsection 1.
- 36 3. A physician, a person pursuant to the direction or authorization of a
- 37 physician, a health care facility or a person administering emergency
- 38 medical services who provides life-resuscitating treatment pursuant to:
- 39 (a) An oral or written request made by a qualified patient ~~who~~
- 40 ~~possesses a do-not-resuscitate identification;~~ , *or the parent or legal*
- 41 *guardian of a qualified patient, who may revoke the authorization to*
- 42 *withhold life-resuscitating treatment pursuant to NRS 450B.530 or*
- 43 *section 5 of this act;* *or*
- 44 (b) An observation that a qualified patient ~~has removed or destroyed or~~
- 45 ~~requested the removal or destruction of his do not resuscitate identification~~
- 46 ~~or otherwise indicated that he wished to have his identification removed or~~
- 47 ~~destroyed;~~ , *or the parent or legal guardian of a qualified patient, has*
- 48 *revoked or otherwise indicated that he wishes to revoke the authorization*



1 *to withhold life-resuscitating treatment pursuant to NRS 450B.530 or*  
2 *section 5 of this act,*

3 is not guilty of unprofessional conduct or subject to civil or criminal  
4 liability.

5 **Sec. 14.** NRS 450B.550 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 450B.550 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a person  
7 who administers emergency medical services shall comply with do-not-  
8 resuscitate protocol when he observes a do-not-resuscitate identification ~~that~~  
9 *or carries out a do-not-resuscitate order.*

10 2. A person who administers emergency medical services and who is  
11 unwilling or unable to comply with the do-not-resuscitate protocol shall  
12 take all reasonable measures to transfer a qualified patient who possesses a  
13 do-not-resuscitate identification *or has been issued a do-not-resuscitate*  
14 *order* to a physician or health care facility in which the do-not-resuscitate  
15 protocol may be followed.

16 **Sec. 15.** NRS 450B.560 is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 450B.560 1. Unless he has knowledge to the contrary, a physician,  
18 any other provider of health care or any person who administers emergency  
19 medical services may assume that a do-not-resuscitate identification  
20 complies with the provisions of NRS 450B.400 to 450B.590, inclusive,  
21 *and sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act,* and is valid.

22 2. The provisions of NRS 450B.400 to 450B.590, inclusive, *and*  
23 *sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act,* do not create a presumption  
24 concerning the intention of a:

25 (a) Qualified patient *or a parent or legal guardian of a qualified*  
26 *patient* who has revoked ~~this~~ authorization to withhold life-resuscitating  
27 treatment ~~that~~ *pursuant to NRS 450B.530 or section 5 of this act;* or

28 (b) Person who has not obtained a do-not-resuscitate  
29 identification,  
30 concerning the use or withholding of life-resuscitating treatment in a life-  
31 threatening emergency.

32 **Sec. 16.** NRS 450B.570 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 450B.570 1. Death that results when life-resuscitating treatment has  
34 been withheld pursuant to the do-not-resuscitate protocol and in  
35 accordance with the provisions of NRS 450B.400 to 450B.590, inclusive,  
36 *and sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act,* does not constitute a suicide or  
37 homicide.

38 2. The possession of a do-not-resuscitate identification *or the issuance*  
39 *of a do-not-resuscitate order* does not affect the sale, procurement or  
40 issuance of a policy of life insurance or an annuity or impair or modify the  
41 terms of a policy of life insurance or an annuity. A policy of life insurance  
42 or an annuity is not legally impaired or invalidated if life-resuscitating  
43 treatment has been withheld from an insured who possesses a do-not-  
44 resuscitate identification ~~that~~ *or has been issued a do-not-resuscitate order,*  
45 notwithstanding any term in the policy or annuity to the contrary.

46 3. A person may not prohibit or require the possession of a do-not-  
47 resuscitate identification *or the issuance of a do-not-resuscitate order* as a  
48 condition of being insured for, or receiving, health care.



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1     **Sec. 17.** NRS 450B.580 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2     450B.580 1. It is unlawful for:

3     (a) A person who administers emergency medical services to fail  
4     willfully to transfer a qualified patient in accordance with the provisions of  
5     NRS 450B.550.

6     (b) A person purposely to conceal, cancel, deface or obliterate a do-not-  
7     resuscitate identification of a qualified patient, unless it is done in  
8     compliance with ~~the~~ a request of the qualified patient *or a parent or legal*  
9     *guardian of the qualified patient* to remove or destroy ~~the~~ the do-not-  
10    resuscitate identification ~~H~~ *pursuant to NRS 450B.530 or section 5 of this*  
11    *act.*

12    (c) A person to falsify or forge the do-not-resuscitate identification of a  
13    qualified patient or purposely to conceal or withhold personal knowledge  
14    of the revocation of a do-not-resuscitate identification with the intent to  
15    cause the use, withholding or withdrawal of life-resuscitating treatment.

16    2. A person who violates any of the provisions of this section is guilty  
17    of a misdemeanor.

18    **Sec. 18.** NRS 129.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19    129.030 1. ~~H~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 5 of this*  
20    *act, a* minor may give consent for the services provided in subsection 2 for  
21    himself or for his child, if he is:

22    (a) Living apart from his parents or legal guardian, with or without the  
23    consent of the parent, parents or legal guardian, and has so lived for a  
24    period of at least 4 months;

25    (b) Married or has been married;

26    (c) A mother, or has borne a child; or

27    (d) In a physician's judgment, in danger of suffering a serious health  
28    hazard if health care services are not provided.

29    2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 ~~H~~ *and section 5 of*  
30    *this act*, the consent of the parent or parents or the legal guardian of a  
31    minor is not necessary for a local or state health officer, board of health,  
32    licensed physician or public or private hospital to examine or provide  
33    treatment for any minor, included within the provisions of subsection 1,  
34    who understands the nature and purpose of the proposed examination or  
35    treatment and its probable outcome, and voluntarily requests it. The  
36    consent of the minor to examination or treatment pursuant to this  
37    subsection is not subject to disaffirmance because of minority.

38    3. A person who treats a minor pursuant to subsection 2 shall, before  
39    initiating treatment, make prudent and reasonable efforts to obtain his  
40    consent to communicate with his parent, parents or legal guardian, and  
41    shall make a note of such efforts in the record of his care. If the person  
42    believes that such efforts would jeopardize treatment necessary to the  
43    minor's life or necessary to avoid a serious and immediate threat to the  
44    minor's health, the person may omit such efforts and note the reasons for  
45    the omission in the record.

46    4. A minor may not consent to his sterilization.

47    5. In the absence of negligence, no person providing services pursuant  
48    to subsection 2 is subject to civil or criminal liability for providing those  
49    services.



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1       6. The parent, parents or legal guardian of a minor who receives  
2 services pursuant to subsection 2 are not liable for the payment for those  
3 services unless the parent, parents or legal guardian has consented to such  
4 health care services. The provisions of this subsection do not relieve a  
5 parent, parents or legal guardian from liability for payment for emergency  
6 services provided to a minor pursuant to NRS 129.040.

7       **Sec. 19.** NRS 129.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
8       129.050 1. ~~Any~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 5 of this*  
9 *act, any* minor who is under the influence of, or suspected of being under  
10 the influence of, a controlled substance:  
11       (a) May give express consent; or  
12       (b) If unable to give express consent, shall be deemed to  
13 consent,  
14 to the furnishing of hospital, medical, surgical or other care for the  
15 treatment of abuse of drugs or related illnesses by any public or private  
16 hospital, medical facility, facility for the dependent or any licensed  
17 physician, and the consent of the minor is not subject to disaffirmance  
18 because of minority.

19       2. Immunity from civil or criminal liability extends to any physician or  
20 other person rendering care or treatment pursuant to subsection 1, in the  
21 absence of negligent diagnosis, care or treatment.

22       3. The consent of the parent, parents or ~~the~~ legal guardian of the  
23 minor is not necessary to authorize such care, but any physician who treats  
24 a minor pursuant to this section shall make every reasonable effort to report  
25 the fact of treatment to the parent , ~~to~~ parents or legal guardian within a  
26 reasonable time after treatment.

27       **Sec. 20.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

