

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

BILL: SB 133 Revises requirements for certain licenses to practice medicine if applicant intends to practice medicine at certain mental health centers under certain circumstances.

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

CONTACT: DAVID ROSIN, M.D., STATEWIDE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

PHONE: (702) 486-6050

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Labor

For the record, my name is David A. Rosin. I am the State Medical Director for the Division of Mental Health.

I am here this afternoon to testify in support of S.B. 133 in its current amended state.

This bill was requested by the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS) to enable the Division to maintain an adequate number of treating psychiatrists in the Division Mental Health Centers during times of staff shortage and staff turnover.

MHDS is dependent upon Locum Tenens Psychiatrists to practice within our psychiatric hospitals and mental health clinics to provide continuity of treatment to our patients in the face of vacancies created by staff turnover.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR

DATE: 4/22/03 ROOM: 4100 EXHIBIT C

SUBMITTED BY: David Rosin

C1013

These physicians are licensed to practice in many states and earn their livelihood by providing short term care. Locum Tenens physicians are doctors who are called on to fill in intermittently when the need arises. They are used extensively nationally as well as in Nevada and have provided MHDS patients invaluable services over the years.

Following the last legislative session an interpretation of NRS Chapter 630 by the State Board of Medical Examiners created a barrier to licensure and thereby to employment for many psychiatrists who sought temporary employment in MHDS hospitals and clinics by requiring an examination of general medical expertise outside of the realm of psychiatric practice.

S.B. 133 allows qualified locum tenens psychiatrists to obtain a restricted license to practice psychiatric medicine under adequate psychiatric supervision within an MHDS mental health facility without the additional examination of their general medical knowledge.

For the past 2 years, many locum tenens psychiatrists have had to take and pass a medically based examination which establishes a current competency expected of a family practice physician in areas of medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and the like if they have not been recently recertified in psychiatry. Recertification in psychiatry, however, does not depend upon general medical competency.

Many well trained psychiatrists have been found ineligible for licensure in Nevada because they do not meet the new testing requirement. These psychiatrists are years past their general medical training and many are nearing retirement age. They are quite skilled in the practice of psychiatry and

are currently able to work in many other states that do require general medical testing competence. They have chosen to avoid Nevada because of the testing requirement.

S.B. 133 enables qualified competent psychiatrists to practice with a limited restricted license in MHDS facilities under MHDS direct medical psychiatric supervision without examination of general medical practice expertise.

Passage of this bill in its current amended state will allow for unbroken patient care during times of psychiatric staff turnover. In the past 2 years, MHDS has not been able to adequately staff to its patient load because of the present examination restriction.

Thank you very much for considering S.B.133.

I would be happy to answer any questions.