

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 327—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 21, 2005

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Authorizes county hospitals to compensate physicians for provision of certain medical services to indigent patients. (BDR 40-928)

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 county hospitals; authorizing the board of hospital trustees of a county hospital to compensate physicians for providing certain medical services to indigent patients; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law authorizes any county or group of counties to establish a county
2 hospital, which is governed by a board of hospital trustees. (NRS 450.010-450.220)
3 Existing law authorizes the board to employ physicians and contract with
4 physicians or private medical associations for certain medical services. The board is
5 further authorized to fix the compensation of the physicians it employs but is
6 prohibited from providing for compensation to physicians or private medical
7 associations with which it contracts for services provided to indigent patients. (NRS
8 450.180) Existing law further prohibits a member of the staff of a county hospital
9 and any other physician who provides care for an indigent patient in a county
10 hospital from receiving compensation for such services, except in certain
11 circumstances. (NRS 450.440)

12 This bill removes the prohibition against compensating a physician or private
13 medical association with which a board of hospital trustees has contracted for
14 services rendered to indigent patients in a county hospital. This bill also removes
15 the limitations on the compensation of members of the staff or other physicians for
16 services provided by them to indigent patients in a county hospital.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 450.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.180 The board of hospital trustees may:

1. Appoint a chief executive officer and necessary assistants, and fix their compensations.

2. Employ physicians and interns, either full-time or part-time, as the board determines necessary, and fix their compensations.

3. Remove those appointees and employees.

4. Control the admission of physicians and interns to the staff by promulgating appropriate rules, regulations and standards governing those appointments.

5. Contract with individual physicians or private medical associations for the provision of certain medical services as may be required by the hospital. ~~{The compensation provided for in the contract must not include compensation to the physician for services rendered to indigent patients.}~~

Sec. 2. NRS 450.440 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.440 1. The board of hospital trustees shall organize a staff of physicians composed of each regular practicing physician, podiatric physician and dentist in the county in which the hospital is located who requests staff membership and meets the standards set forth in the regulations prescribed by the board of hospital trustees.

2. The staff shall organize in a manner prescribed by the board so that there is a rotation of service among the members of the staff to give proper medical and surgical attention and service to the indigent sick, injured or maimed who may be admitted to the hospital for treatment.

3. ~~{No member of the staff or any other physician who attends an indigent patient may receive any compensation for his services except as otherwise provided in NRS 450.180 or to the extent that the medical care is paid for by any governmental authority or any private medical care program.~~

~~—4.}~~ The board of hospital trustees or the board of county commissioners may offer the following assistance to members of the staff to attract and retain them:

(a) Establishment of clinic or group practice;

(b) Malpractice insurance coverage under the hospital's policy of professional liability insurance;

(c) Professional fee billing; and

(d) The opportunity to rent office space in facilities owned or operated by the hospital, as the space is available, if this opportunity is offered to all members of the staff on the same terms and conditions.



1 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.



