

SENATE BILL NO. 244—SENATOR NOLAN

MARCH 12, 2007

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the collection of data relating to the tracking of waiting times for emergency medical services at hospitals. (BDR 40-94)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to emergency medical services; requiring the State Board of Health to develop a system of collecting data relating to waiting times at hospitals; requiring hospitals and providers of emergency medical services in certain counties to participate in the collection of data; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law provides that hospitals and providers of emergency medical services are required to transfer a person who arrives at the hospital by an ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle of a fire-fighting agency to an appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency services and care within 30 minutes after the time at which the person arrives at the hospital. Existing law also requires the Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt regulations concerning the manner in which hospitals and providers of emergency medical care shall track the time elapsed from when a person arrives at the hospital to the time the person is transferred to an appropriate place to receive care. (NRS 450B.790) Senate Bill No. 458 of the 2005 Legislative Session enacted the statutory requirement for tracking wait times and also required the Health Division to conduct a study to identify both the causes of excessive waiting times and any corrective actions that might eliminate excessive waiting times. The provisions requiring the study expired by limitation on December 31, 2006. (Chapter 382, Statutes of Nevada 2005, pp. 1475-77)

**Section 1** of this bill requires the State Board of Health to develop a system of collecting data concerning the waiting times. **Section 1** also requires hospitals and providers of emergency medical services in each county whose population is 400,000 or more to collect certain data relating to waiting times. In counties whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 400,000, the Board may require the



collection of data if there are excessive waiting times at one or more hospitals in the county. **Section 2** of this bill eliminates the requirement that the Health Division adopt regulations relating to the tracking of waiting times.

---

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

**Section 1.** Chapter 450B of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*1. The State Board of Health shall collect data, in accordance with the system that is developed by the Board pursuant to subsection 5, concerning the waiting times for the provision of emergency services and care to each person who is in need of such services and care and who is transported to a hospital by a provider of emergency medical services.*

*2. Each hospital and each provider of emergency medical services in a county whose population is 400,000 or more shall participate in the collection of data pursuant to this section by collecting data, in accordance with the system that is developed by the State Board of Health pursuant to subsection 5, concerning the waiting times for the provision of emergency services and care to each person who is in need of such services and care and who is transported to a hospital by a provider of emergency medical services.*

*3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the hospitals and the providers of emergency medical services in a county whose population is less than 400,000 are not required to participate in the collection of data pursuant to this section unless the county health officer, each hospital and each provider of emergency medical services in the county agree in writing that the county will participate in the collection of data. The county health officer shall submit the written agreement to the State Board of Health.*

*4. If the State Board of Health determines, in a county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 400,000, that there are excessive waiting times at one or more hospitals in the county for the provision of emergency services and care to persons who are in need of such services and care and who have been transported to the hospital by a provider of emergency medical services, the State Board of Health may require the county to implement a system of collecting data pursuant to subsection 5 concerning the extent of waiting times and the circumstances surrounding such waiting times.*

*5. For the purpose of collecting data pursuant to this section, the State Board of Health shall develop a system of collecting data*



\* S B 2 4 4 R 1 \*

1 *concerning the waiting times of persons for the provision of*  
2 *emergency services and care at a hospital and the surrounding*  
3 *circumstances for such waiting times each time a person is*  
4 *transported to a hospital by a provider of emergency medical*  
5 *services. The system must include, without limitation, an*  
6 *electronic method of recording and collecting the following*  
7 *information:*

8 (a) *The time at which a person arrives at the hospital, which is*  
9 *the time that the person is presented to the emergency room of the*  
10 *hospital;*

11 (b) *The time at which the person is transferred to an*  
12 *appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency services and*  
13 *care, which is the time that the person is physically present in*  
14 *the appropriate place and the staff of the emergency room of the*  
15 *hospital have received a report concerning the transfer of the*  
16 *person;*

17 (c) *If a person is not transferred to an appropriate place in the*  
18 *hospital to receive emergency services and care within 30 minutes*  
19 *after arriving at the hospital, information detailing the reason for*  
20 *such delay, which may be selected from a predetermined list of*  
21 *possible reasons that are available for selection in the electronic*  
22 *system;*

23 (d) *A unique identifier that is assigned to each transfer of a*  
24 *person to a hospital by a provider of emergency medical services*  
25 *which allows the transfer to be identified and reviewed; and*

26 (e) *The names of the personnel of the provider of emergency*  
27 *medical services who transported the person to the hospital and of*  
28 *the personnel of the hospital who are responsible for the care of*  
29 *the person after the person arrives at the hospital.*

30 6. *The State Board of Health shall ensure that:*

31 (a) *The data collected pursuant to subsection 5 is reported to*  
32 *the Health Division on a quarterly basis;*

33 (b) *The data collected pursuant to subsection 5 is available to*  
34 *any person or entity participating in the collection of data*  
35 *pursuant to this section; and*

36 (c) *The system of collecting data developed pursuant to*  
37 *subsection 5 and all other aspects of the collection comply with the*  
38 *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,*  
39 *Public Law 104-191.*

40 7. *The State Board of Health shall appoint for each county in*  
41 *which hospitals and providers of emergency medical services are*  
42 *participating in the collection of data pursuant to this section an*  
43 *advisory committee consisting of the health officer of the county, a*  
44 *representative of each hospital in the county and a representative*  
45 *of each provider of emergency medical services in the county.*



1 *Each member of the advisory committee serves without*  
2 *compensation and is not entitled to receive a per diem allowance*  
3 *or travel expenses for his service on the advisory committee. Each*  
4 *advisory committee shall:*

5 *(a) Review the data that is collected for the county and*  
6 *submitted to the State Board of Health concerning the waiting*  
7 *times for the provision of emergency services and care, the*  
8 *manner in which such data was collected and any circumstances*  
9 *surrounding such waiting times;*

10 *(b) Review each incident in which a person was transferred to*  
11 *an appropriate place in a hospital to receive emergency services*  
12 *and care more than 30 minutes after arriving at the hospital; and*

13 *(c) Submit a report of its findings to the State Board of Health.*

14 *8. The State Board of Health may delegate its duties set forth*  
15 *in this section to:*

16 *(a) The district board of health in a county whose population*  
17 *is 400,000 or more.*

18 *(b) The county or district board of health in a county whose*  
19 *population is less than 400,000.*

20 *9. The State Board of Health or any county or district board*  
21 *of health that is performing the duties of the State Board of Health*  
22 *pursuant to subsection 8 shall submit a quarterly report to the*  
23 *Legislative Committee on Health Care, which must include a*  
24 *written compilation of the data collected pursuant to this section.*

25 *10. The State Board of Health may require each hospital and*  
26 *provider of emergency medical services located in a county that*  
27 *participates in the collection of data pursuant to this section to*  
28 *share in the expense of purchasing hardware and software*  
29 *necessary to carry out the collection of data pursuant to this*  
30 *section.*

31 *11. The State Board of Health may, in consultation with each*  
32 *hospital and provider of emergency medical services located in a*  
33 *county that participates in the collection of data pursuant to this*  
34 *section, submit a written request to the Director of the Legislative*  
35 *Counsel Bureau for transmission to a regular session of the*  
36 *Legislature for the repeal of this section. Such a written request*  
37 *must include the justifications and reasons for requesting the*  
38 *termination of the collection of data pursuant to this section.*

39 *12. As used in this section:*

40 *(a) "Emergency services and care" has the meaning ascribed*  
41 *to it in NRS 439B.410.*

42 *(b) "Hospital" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.012.*

43 *(c) "Provider of emergency medical services" means each*  
44 *operator of an ambulance and each fire-fighting agency which*  
45 *has a permit to operate pursuant to this chapter and which*



*provides transportation for persons in need of emergency services and care to hospitals.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 450B.790 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450B.790 1. Each hospital in this State which receives a person in need of emergency services and care who has been transported to the hospital by ~~[an ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle of a fire-fighting agency that has a permit to operate pursuant to this chapter]~~ *a provider of emergency medical services* shall ensure that the person is transferred to a bed, chair, gurney or other appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency services and care as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 minutes after the time at which the person arrives at the hospital.

2. ~~[The Health Division shall adopt regulations concerning the manner in which a hospital and an attendant responsible for the care of a person in need of emergency services and care during transport to the hospital shall determine and track the time at which a person arrives at a hospital and the time at which the person is transferred to an appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency services and care for the purposes of this section. The regulations must provide that:~~

~~—(a) The time at which a person arrives at a hospital is the time at which he is presented to the emergency room of the hospital; and~~

~~—(b) The time at which the person is transferred to an appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency services and care is the time at which the person is physically in that place and the staff of the emergency room of the hospital have received a report concerning the person.~~

~~—3.]~~ This section does not create a duty of care and is not a ground for civil or criminal liability.

~~[4.]~~ 3. As used in this section:

(a) “Emergency services and care” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 439B.410.

(b) “Hospital” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.012.

*(c) “Provider of emergency medical services” means each operator of an ambulance and each fire-fighting agency which has a permit to operate pursuant to this chapter and which provides transportation for persons in need of emergency services and care to hospitals.*

**Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

