

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.

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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; 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:

1 Existing law provides that hospitals and providers of emergency medical
2 services are required to transfer a person who arrives at the hospital by an
3 ambulance, air ambulance or vehicle of a fire-fighting agency to an appropriate
4 place in the hospital to receive emergency services and care within 30 minutes after
5 the time at which the person arrives at the hospital. Existing law also requires the
6 Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt
7 regulations concerning the manner in which hospitals and providers of emergency
8 medical care shall track the time elapsed from when a person arrives at the hospital
9 to the time the person is transferred to an appropriate place to receive care. (NRS
10 450B.790) Senate Bill No. 458 of the 2005 Legislative Session enacted the
11 statutory requirement for tracking wait times and also required the Health Division
12 to conduct a study to identify both the causes of excessive waiting times and any
13 corrective actions that might eliminate excessive waiting times. The provisions
14 requiring the study expired by limitation on December 31, 2006. (Chapter 382,
15 Statutes of Nevada 2005, pp. 1475-77)

16 **Section 1** of this bill requires the State Board of Health to develop a system of
17 collecting data concerning the waiting times. **Section 1** also requires hospitals and
18 providers of emergency medical services in each county whose population is
19 400,000 or more to collect certain data relating to waiting times. In counties whose
20 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



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) Meet not less than once each calendar quarter;*

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

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

14 *(d) Submit a report of its findings to the State Board of Health.*

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

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

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

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

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

32 *11. The State Board of Health shall adopt regulations to*
33 *carry out the provisions of this section, including, without*
34 *limitation, regulations prescribing the duties and responsibilities*
35 *of each:*

36 *(a) County or district board of health that is performing the*
37 *duties of the State Board of Health pursuant to subsection 8;*

38 *(b) Hospital located in a county that participates in the*
39 *collection of data pursuant to this section; and*

40 *(c) Provider of emergency medical services located in a county*
41 *whose population is less than 400,000 that participates in the*
42 *collection of data pursuant to this section.*

43 *12. The district board of health in each county whose*
44 *population is 400,000 or more shall adopt regulations consistent*



1 with subsection 11 for providers of emergency medical services
2 located in the county to carry out the provisions of this section.

3 13. The State Board of Health may, in consultation with each
4 hospital and provider of emergency medical services located in a
5 county that participates in the collection of data pursuant to this
6 section, submit a written request to the Director of the Legislative
7 Counsel Bureau for transmission to a regular session of the
8 Legislature for the repeal of this section. Such a written request
9 must include the justifications and reasons for requesting the
10 termination of the collection of data pursuant to this section.

11 14. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

21 450B.790 1. Each hospital in this State which receives a
22 person in need of emergency services and care who has been
23 transported to the hospital by ~~[an ambulance, air ambulance or~~
24 ~~vehicle of a fire-fighting agency that has a permit to operate~~
25 ~~pursuant to this chapter]~~ a provider of emergency medical services
26 shall ensure that the person is transferred to a bed, chair, gurney or
27 other appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency services
28 and care as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 minutes after
29 the time at which the person arrives at the hospital.

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

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

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



~~3.1~~ This section does not create a duty of care and is not a ground for civil or criminal liability.

~~4.1~~ 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.

