

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR**

**Seventy-fourth Session  
June 4, 2007**

The Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor was called to order by Chair Randolph J. Townsend at 3:01 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2007, on the Senate Floor of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. There was no Agenda. There was no Attendance Roster.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Chair  
Senator Warren B. Hardy II, Vice Chair  
Senator Joseph J. Heck  
Senator Michael A. Schneider  
Senator Maggie Carlton

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kelly S. Gregory, Committee Policy Analyst  
Wil Keane, Committee Counsel  
Lynn Hendricks, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rusty McAllister, Professional Firefighters of Nevada  
Jim Fry, Deputy Risk Manager, Risk Management Division, Department of Administration  
Ronald P. Dreher, Peace Officers Research Association of Nevada

CHAIR TOWNSEND:

I will open the hearing on Assembly Bill (A.B.) 89.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 89 (1st Reprint)**: Revises provisions regarding industrial injuries and occupational diseases to include as police officers certain employees of the Department of Public Safety and the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. (BDR 53-849)

SENATOR CARLTON:

I would like to amend this bill to provide physical examinations for volunteer firefighters under *Nevada Revised Statute* 617.457, which concerns coverage for heart disease for police, firefighters and volunteer firefighters. Under current statute, police officers and firefighters are given physical exams on application, on employment and annually. Volunteer firefighters are only given an initial physical exam and another every three years. This amendment gives volunteer firefighters the same physical exams as paid firefighters: the first upon initial employment, every 3 years thereafter, and annually after the age of 50 years. I have discussed the amendment with the sponsor of the bill, and she has no objections.

RUSTY MCALLISTER (Professional Firefighters of Nevada):

I have been informed that the Nevada Association of Counties does not have a problem with this amendment.

SENATOR HECK:

As the amendment is currently written, volunteer firefighters who are employed after the age of 50 are not covered.

JIM FRY (Deputy Risk Manager, Risk Management Division, Department of Administration):

It should be noted that 300 volunteer firefighters have a dual role with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), which has a different policy.

SENATOR HECK:

This means that when they are over 50, these dual people would be covered if they ride to a fire with the NDF and would not be covered if they go to the same fire with firefighters.

RONALD P. DREHER (Peace Officers Research Association of Nevada):

I met with the sponsor of the bill and Michael Heidemann, Executive Director, Nevada State Firefighters Association, to review the amendment. I would like to put on the record that we support it, but the money is a problem.

CHAIR TOWNSEND:

I will recess this meeting at 3:15 p.m. to give the Legal Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, time to revise the amendment.

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I will call the Committee back to order at 6:30 p.m. and hand out proposed amendment 4375 ([Exhibit A](#)). Do we know if this poses a fiscal problem?

Senator Carlton:  
My understanding is that the cost will be minimal.

SENATOR HECK MOVED TO AMEND A.B. 89 WITH PROPOSED  
AMENDMENT 4375 AND REREFER THE BILL TO THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

SENATOR CARLTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR TOWNSEND:

Is there any further business to come before the Committee? Hearing none,  
I will adjourn this meeting at 6:35 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Lynn Hendricks,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_