

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Seventy-sixth Session  
May 25, 2011**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair John J. Lee at 10:11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator John J. Lee, Chair  
Senator Mark A. Manendo, Vice Chair  
Senator Michael A. Schneider  
Senator Joseph (Joe) P. Hardy  
Senator James A. Settelmeyer

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Michael Stewart, Policy Analyst  
Heidi Chlarson, Counsel  
Martha Barnes, Committee Secretary

CHAIR LEE:

I will open the hearing for the first bill on our work session agenda, [Assembly Bill \(A.B.\) 98](#).

[ASSEMBLY BILL 98 \(1st Reprint\)](#): Enacts the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act. (BDR 36-56)

MICHAEL STEWART (Policy Analyst):

[Assembly Bill 98](#) presented in the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)) was proposed by Assemblyman Tick Segerblom and enacts the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, which establishes legal guidelines for recognizing other states' licenses for physicians and health care practitioners who volunteer to provide assistance during the time of a declared emergency. Testimony indicated this Uniform Act has been adopted by 13 state legislatures and is pending approval in 4 other states. It basically creates a new chapter in the *Nevada Revised Statutes* relating to service in Nevada by volunteer

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health practitioners and veterinarians during an emergency or during training for an emergency. The Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, can create a registration system for volunteer health practitioners and veterinarians and regulate the activities of such persons. There were no amendments offered.

SENATOR SETTELMEYER MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 98.

SENATOR MANENDO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR LEE:

We will discuss A.B. 419 from the work session agenda.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 419 \(1st Reprint\)](#): Revises provisions relating to groundwater basins. (BDR 48-299)

MR. STEWART:

Assembly Bill 419 presented in the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)) permits the State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to designate a groundwater basin as a critical management area if the withdrawals consistently exceed the perennial yield of the basin. The bill sets forth certain criteria the State Engineer may consider when reviewing a groundwater management plan. If a basin has been designated as a critical management area for at least ten consecutive years, the State Engineer shall order all withdrawals of groundwater to be restricted based on priority unless a groundwater management plan has been approved.

An amendment discussed by Senator Settlemeyer would affect one of the criteria the State Engineer may use when considering determination to approve a groundwater management plan. This amendment would delete language in section 1, subsection 2, paragraph (c) as it relates to criterion that states the relationship between surface water and groundwater in the basin may be considered by the State Engineer. That is the only proposed amendment.

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SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I understand the concerns Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea has in his hydrographical water basins; however, the inclusion of this language may be used by other individuals and lawyers in other cases throughout the State. It brings to light the whole issue of whether secondary water rights would even exist.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED A.B. 419.

SENATOR HARDY SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR LEE:

We will now discuss A.B. 519.

[ASSEMBLY BILL 519 \(1st Reprint\)](#): Makes various changes relating to the Office for Consumer Health Assistance. (BDR 18-1157)

MR. STEWART:

Assembly Bill 519 presented in the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)) combines the Office of Minority Health, currently in the Health Division, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), with the Office for Consumer Health Assistance, Office of the Governor, and transfers both offices to the DHHS. According to testimony, this proposed transfer in A.B. 519 has been supported in recommendations of the Legislative Committee for the Fundamental Review of the Base Budgets of State Agencies and has already been included as part of the budget closings for the DHHS made by the Joint Committees on Ways and Means and Finance. There were no amendments offered for this bill.

SENATOR HARDY MOVED TO DO PASS A.B. 519.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER SECONDED THE MOTION.

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THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR LEE:

We will move these bills down to the Senate Floor for a vote. I will adjourn the meeting of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs at 10:16 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Martha Barnes,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator John J. Lee, Chair

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

<u>EXHIBITS</u>			
Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
A.B. 98	C	Michael Stewart	Work session document
A.B. 419	D	Michael Stewart	Work session document
A.B. 519	E	Michael Stewart	Work session document