

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR**

**Seventy-Seventh Session  
February 13, 2013**

The Committee on Commerce and Labor was called to order by Chairman David P. Bobzien at 1:35 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2013, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [nelis.leg.state.nv.us/77th2013](http://nelis.leg.state.nv.us/77th2013). In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775-684-6835).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chairman  
Assemblywoman Marilyn K. Kirkpatrick, Vice Chairwoman  
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams  
Assemblyman Skip Daly  
Assemblywoman Olivia Diaz  
Assemblyman John Ellison  
Assemblyman Jason Frierson  
Assemblyman Tom Grady  
Assemblyman Ira Hansen  
Assemblyman Crescent Hardy  
Assemblyman James W. Healey  
Assemblyman William C. Horne  
Assemblyman James Ohrenschall

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton (excused)  
Assemblyman Pete Livermore (excused)

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

None



**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kelly Richard, Committee Policy Analyst  
Matt Mundy, Committee Counsel  
Leslie Danihel, Committee Manager  
Earlene Miller, Committee Secretary  
Olivia Lloyd, Committee Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Neena Laxalt, representing Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Richard Simmonds, D.V.M., M.S., President, Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Dennis R. Wilson, D.V.M., Past President and Legislative Chairman, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association  
April Carlson, Board Member, Nevada Veterinary Technician Association  
Debbie Machen, Executive Director, Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Dennis Lopez, Program Director, Veterinary Technician Program, Pima Medical Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Melissa Schalles, President, Nevada Veterinary Technician Association

**Chairman Bobzien:**

[The roll was called. A quorum was present.] Assembly Bill 73 will not be heard today.

**Assembly Bill 73: Revises provisions governing the practice of chiropractic. (BDR 54-538)**

The bill will not be heard because a number of exhibits were received too late to be put on the Internet for the public to view. I would like to remind people that exhibits must be given to our staff by 5 p.m. on the business day preceding the hearing. We will hear this bill at a later date and appreciate the cooperation of the bill sponsor.

**Assembly Bill 72: Revises provisions relating to the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. (BDR 54-189)**

We will open the hearing on Assembly Bill 72. Assemblywoman Carlton is not able to present this bill today, and the proponents will present it on her behalf.

**Neena Laxalt, representing Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners:**

I would like to introduce other speakers to present this bill.

**Richard Simmonds, D.V.M., M.S., President, Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners:**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our enthusiastic support and appreciation to Assemblywoman Carlton for A.B. 72, which proposes to add a licensed veterinary technician to the membership of the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

[Read from prepared text ([Exhibit C](#)).]

**Dennis R. Wilson, D.V.M., Past President and Legislative Chairman, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association:**

I have submitted a letter of support for A.B. 72 on behalf of the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association ([Exhibit D](#)). I employ 16 licensed veterinary technicians at my hospital. The animal emergency center could not function without the highly skilled, trained, and competent veterinary technicians at our hospital. Other hospitals in our region feel the same way about their technicians because they are a vital part of our profession. They are licensed, trained professionals and are regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. We feel representation on this Board is entirely appropriate.

**April Carlson, Board Member, Nevada Veterinary Technician Association:**

I have been a licensed veterinary technician in Nevada since 2001. I am a board member of the newly formed association for veterinary technicians. It is very important that we have representation as a profession in the state of Nevada.

**Chairman Bobzien:**

Are there any questions?

**Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:**

If this position were approved, would the Governor appoint the member?

**Richard Simmonds:**

That is the intent.

**Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams:**

How many technicians are in the profession and would it be difficult to fill the position on the Board?

**Debbie Machen, Executive Director, Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners:**

There are over 500 licensed veterinary technicians in the state of Nevada.

**Richard Simmonds:**

We do not anticipate a problem finding a qualified person.

**Assemblyman Ellison:**

How is the position paid?

**Richard Simmonds:**

All of our expenses are self-supported through Board fees. There is no money from the General Fund. The Board is self-funded.

**Assemblyman Ellison:**

How many Board members do you have?

**Richard Simmonds:**

We have six veterinarians and one community member on the Board.

**Assemblyman Ellison:**

This would make eight members on the Board. I am concerned you could have tied votes.

**Richard Simmonds:**

Our Board policy is that the investigating Board member does not vote and the chair votes only in the case of a tie. With eight members, the chair could break the tie.

**Assemblyman Ohrenschall:**

Do you anticipate any difficulties establishing a quorum? Has that been an issue for your Board in the past?

**Richard Simmonds:**

I have been on the Board for approximately six to seven years, and we only had one instance when we thought there might be a problem, but we did in fact have a quorum that time. I would not anticipate it to be a problem in the future.

**Assemblyman Ohrenschall:**

Does the current membership of the Board represent the state? What is the distribution of the members?

**Richard Simmonds:**

We have four members from the Las Vegas area and three from northern Nevada. We do not have a representative from the rural counties. We are anticipating a vacancy soon, and it will be up to the Governor to decide the appointment. There are rural veterinarians interested in the position.

**Assemblyman Ohrenschall:**

What are the practice areas of the Board members?

**Richard Simmonds:**

We currently have one member who is a large-animal veterinarian. I am an institutional practitioner, and the others are small-animal veterinarians.

**Debbie Machen:**

We have two canine-feline specialists on the Board.

**Chairman Bobzien:**

Are there any further questions? [There were none.] Was the requirement that the licensed veterinary technician have five years of experience chosen to be in parity with the existing requirement for the other members? Was there any consideration if a veterinary technician needs that much experience to serve on the Board?

**Richard Simmonds:**

That was in consideration of parity with the existing regulations.

**Chairman Bobzien:**

Is there anyone else to speak in support of A.B. 72?

**Dennis Lopez, Program Director, Veterinary Technician Program, Pima Medical Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada:**

I have been a practicing licensed veterinary technician in Las Vegas for over 15 years. Many of the members of the Board know me, and I regularly attend Board meetings. Pima Medical Institute is one of three accredited veterinary technician programs in the state of Nevada. All three of the programs are highly regarded by the American Veterinary Medical Association. I am also the current President of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA), a 9,000-member organization. I am a founding member of the Nevada Veterinary Technician Association (NVTa).

We fully support A.B. 72 based on the stature that veterinary technicians have gained in this state and in the eyes of the American Veterinary Medical Association. We are the registered nurses of the veterinary profession and are

an extremely important part of the veterinary health care team. In order to gain the stature of a credentialed veterinary technician, a person must obtain an associate's or higher degree and pass a national board examination. Nevada has some of the most definitive laws regarding credentialed veterinary technicians in the United States. The Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has done an outstanding job in creating definitive laws regarding the position. This bill is a natural extension of the code. On behalf of NAVTA and NVTA, I would like to add my full support.

**Melissa Schalles, President, Nevada Veterinary Technician Association:**

I am the veterinary clinic manager at the College of Southern Nevada's Veterinary Technology Program. I would like to state my utmost support for this bill. We feel that technicians are extremely professional, and this career field needs to be represented on the regulatory board ([Exhibit E](#)).

[Dennis Olsen D.V.M., M.S., D.A.C.V.S. submitted a letter ([Exhibit F](#)) in support of A.B. 72.]

[Guy Pidgeon, D.V.M. submitted a letter ([Exhibit G](#)) in support of A.B. 72.]

**Chairman Bobzien:**

Are there any questions? [There were none.] Is there any opposition? [There was none.] Is there anyone to speak from a neutral position? [There was none.] We will close the hearing on A.B. 72. Is there any public comment? [There was none.] Are there any comments from Committee members? [There were none.]

The meeting is adjourned [at 1:57 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Earlene Miller  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblyman David P. Bobzien, Chairman

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

**EXHIBITS**

**Committee Name:** Committee on Commerce and Labor

**Date:** February 13, 2013

**Time of Meeting:** 1:35 p.m.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Witness / Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A		Agenda
	B		Attendance Roster
A.B. 72	C	Richard Simmonds, Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	Written testimony
A.B. 72	D	Dennis Wilson, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association	Letter of support
A.B. 72	E	Melissa Schalles, Nevada Veterinary Technician Association	Letter of support
A.B. 72	F	Dennis Olsen, College of Southern Nevada	Letter of support
A.B. 72	G	Guy Pidgeon, Western Veterinary Conference	Letter of support