

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Seventy-Seventh Session
March 20, 2013**

The Committee on Health and Human Services was called to order by Chair Marilyn Dondero Loop at 1:37 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, in Room 3138 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. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775-684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair
Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblyman Wesley Duncan
Assemblyman Andy Eisen
Assemblywoman Michele Fiore
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblyman Pat Hickey
Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan
Assemblyman Andrew Martin
Assemblyman James Oscarson
Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce
Assemblyman Michael Sprinkle

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Steven Brooks (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman Crescent Hardy, Clark County Assembly District No. 19

Minutes ID: 577



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kirsten Bugenig, Committee Policy Analyst
Terry Horgan, Committee Secretary
Macy Young, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clara Andriola, representing American Red Cross, Northern Nevada Chapter
Glen Jacobson, Salt Lake City, Utah; Director of Collections, American Red Cross
Lawrence Matheis, representing Nevada State Medical Association
Liz MacMenamin, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada
Cheryl Blomstrom, representing Nevada Nurses Association
Bill Welch, representing Nevada Hospital Association
Laura Bledsoe, Owner, Quail Hollow Farm, Overton, Nevada
Doug Busselman, representing Nevada Farm Bureau
Rick Lattin, Owner, Lattin Farms, Fallon, Nevada
Ray Johnson, Owner, Custom Gardens Farm & CSA, Silver Springs, Nevada
Glenn D. Savage, Environmental Health Director, Southern Nevada Health District
Joseph L. Pollock, Program Manager, Environmental Health Section, Public Health & Clinical Services, Health State Health Division
Joseph P. Iser, M.D., District Health Officer, Washoe County Health District

Chair Dondero Loop:

[Roll was taken. Committee rules and protocol were explained.] Please sign in at the door and indicate if you will be testifying today. When you mark whether you are testifying, it will be helpful if you will mark "for," "opposition," "supporting opposition," or "neutral." We are going to have a gentleman in Utah who will be testifying by phone today, so I appreciate his patience as we go through the bill hearing before we take his testimony in support.

I will now open the hearing on Assembly Bill 183. This bill relates to blood donations for 16-year-olds with parental consent.

Assembly Bill 183: Allows a person who is 16 years of age to donate blood with the consent of his or her parent or guardian. (BDR 40-1015)

Assemblyman Wesley Duncan, Clark County Assembly District No. 37:

I am excited to be presenting this bill not only because of the topic, but also because, as a freshman legislator, this is the first bill I have ever presented.

Presently in Nevada, anyone who is 17 years old or older can donate blood. This bill would lower that age to 16 with the consent of a parent. This is becoming a trend across our nation, as 41 other states currently have this practice ([Exhibit C](#)). The intent of Assembly Bill 183 is to increase the blood supply and help encourage high-school-age students to get involved. We would like to grab those students earlier and encourage them to want to donate. We have a few witnesses who will talk about that potential increase in the blood supply. There are times when we have to transport blood from other states. This bill will hopefully provide clarity in our law and increase the blood supply.

With that, I will turn this over to Ms. Clara Andriola, representing the Northern Nevada Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Clara Andriola, representing American Red Cross, Northern Nevada Chapter:

[Ms. Andriola presented a letter in support of A.B. 183 ([Exhibit D](#)).]

The American Red Cross strongly supports the ability of 16-year-olds to donate blood with parental consent. Exposure to voluntary blood donation in high school gives an important opportunity for the Red Cross and others to educate potential donors on the benefits of a lifetime of committed service to the community.

Parental support in fostering this goal is critical, and we fully respect parental involvement in the decision making around blood donation. Enacting A.B. 183 will have a positive impact on our ability to collect blood for hospitals and patients in Nevada. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope you will enact this important legislation as it will help us to continue to fulfill our mission to maintain a sufficient blood supply in Nevada.

I would like to introduce Glen Jacobson who is the Director of Collections for the American Red Cross. Mr. Jacobson, who is on the phone, is an expert on blood collection and is available to offer additional information to this Committee.

Glen Jacobson, Salt Lake City, Utah; Director of Collections, American Red Cross:

I have been in blood services for many years, and there are three things I consider when we make decisions connected with blood services: is it good for the patient; is it good for the donors; and is it good for the collection staff.

I believe this bill is good for all three of those parties. For the patient, it makes for better blood availability. For the donors, it gives them an opportunity to serve the community. For the collection staff who draws the blood, this will help provide them with standard procedures from state to state. Some of our staff work in multiple states, for example, from Nevada to Utah, and it would be very nice if the procedures are the same when they cross state boundaries.

Chair Dondero Loop:

What was the original law, or thought, behind blood-donor age limits? Was it just that 18-year-olds were adults?

Glen Jacobson:

The laws allowing 17-year-olds to donate have been around for many years and in many states. In the last three or four years, many states have changed to allow 16-year-olds to donate. A lot of those changes have come about due to changes in donation criteria. We have established different criteria for anyone under the age of 19, so those 18 and younger have a different set of criteria for height and weight. Since this has come about, we have asked that those old laws be changed to incorporate the safety requirements for 16-year-old donors.

Assemblyman Eisen:

Do you have any data on what the impact has been in states that have moved the age of donation from 17 to 16? What has that done for the blood supply?

Clara Andriola:

For Nevada, lowering the donation age from 17 to 16 has the potential for a 10 to 20 percent increase if every 16-year-old donated, which is highly unlikely. Certainly the potential is there and is what other states have seen.

Assemblyman Eisen:

I was looking for statistics on the increase in the blood supply that could be linked to lowering of the donation age.

Clara Andriola:

The 10 to 20 percent increase speaks to that and is information from other states. Because Nevada's donation age is at 17, the information I am sharing is from other states, specifically Utah.

Assemblyman Hambrick:

I like the bill. I noticed that the 16-year-old will have a parental approval requirement, which is fine. I am sure the 16-year-old will still require the same type of testing for blood purity. The question is, if that 16-year-old has a sexually transmitted disease (STD) or a brand new pregnancy, there is a hiccup

here. Under certain areas of law, the parents may not be notified. Since there is parental approval required for a 16-year-old to donate blood, what happens to the privacy aspect for a 16-year-old who might have an STD or a pregnancy?

Glen Jacobson:

It is my understanding that the parents will be notified, because they are giving their consent to do this. First, we would attempt to contact the donor to make him or her aware of the STD and follow up with them. If that is not accomplished, then we would work through the parent.

Assemblyman Hambrick:

So until you reach the donor, I take it the donor would not be allowed to put his or her arm on the table for a blood draw.

Glen Jacobson:

That is correct.

Assemblyman Hickey:

Having just heard a bill last week about organ donations where the question was raised about parental consent or parents signing off, I am glad to see that your bill includes that. Could you provide a little more detail? How do you envision that working? When a 16-year-old, if given permission, goes to actually give blood, would a parent have to be present and sign a permission slip at that time?

Glen Jacobson:

We send the permission slips home ahead of time. We plan for these blood drives many weeks ahead of time and provide the consent forms, along with other information about the donation process, for the students to take home to their parents. The parents sign that form and the student brings it back.

Assemblywoman Pierce:

Do you still have the weight requirements? If a 16-year-old, 95-pound girl shows up, you are going to thank her and send her back out the door, right?

Glen Jacobson:

Yes, actually our weight requirements are extended for people who are less than 19 years old. For anyone 19 years of age and older, the weight requirement is 110 pounds. For anyone under the age of 19, there is an algorithm that has a height/weight requirement as well. Depending on the height and weight, that would determine if they would be deferred from donating.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

What tests are performed on the blood once it has been taken from a donor?

Glen Jacobson:

The primary tests for blood are hepatitis A and syphilis. There are multiple tests for those diseases, but they are the primary things we test for.

Assemblyman Sprinkle:

In regard to the previous question, those test results would be the ones that might be transmitted back to either the donor or to the donor's parents but nothing that is not tested for, is that correct?

Glen Jacobson:

Correct.

Assemblyman Hambrick:

In reading the bill, may I assume that once a parent gives approval, that approval is universal or does the parent have to give approval each time the youngster wants to donate? If a school has a blood drive twice or three times in a school year, would they need permission each time, or would it be a one-shot deal and then it would be good, which I hope would be the case?

Glen Jacobson:

They have to have parental consent with each donation. If a parent was to change his or her mind after the first donation, they would not give permission for the second donation.

Assemblywoman Pierce:

I would like to see us have a minimum weight. I would be nervous about anyone giving blood weighing under 110 pounds.

Clara Andriola:

I would also remind the Committee that the process of blood donations and blood collection is heavily regulated federally. The algorithm that was described by Mr. Jacobson to ensure safety is a common practice. I do not want to give the misconception that the only requirement is that a person weigh 110 pounds. There are other factors that are part of the equation. We can provide the Committee with that detail if you would like to see a table of what those factors are. It becomes a bit complex because one factor can trigger another, which could trigger yet another. To reiterate, it is not just the Red Cross's regulations. There are other regulations we have to strictly follow.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Are there additional questions from the Committee for any of our witnesses? [There was no response.] I think we have covered everything. Mr. Jacobson, do you have any other comments or additional information about the success of this and how many students take part in this? Do they have school drives versus the Red Cross coming to the schools once in a while?

Glen Jacobson:

We have seen very successful blood drives at high schools throughout the country. We have continued to see very successful high school drives with the change in the requirements for height and weight for these students. We have found it very productive and safe for these students to do this. I would encourage passage of this bill. It is becoming a very strong standard within the organization, not only in the Red Cross, but in other blood organizations.

Chair Dondero Loop:

In Las Vegas, I would like to call anyone in support to the witness table.

Lawrence Matheis, representing Nevada State Medical Association:

We do support this bill. We are having increasing periods during which there are blood shortages. We have a large tourist population that visits the state. The importance of this increase is probably more simply to get younger people, teenagers, to think about the gift relationship that giving blood is. As you know, the principle cause of injury and death for teenagers is automobile accidents, which often result in the necessity for blood. This is a way for them to connect the giving relationship of blood donation with community need. We support it and think it will increase the blood supply and increase participation by youngsters.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Are there any questions from the Committee? [There were none.] Is there anyone in support here in Carson City?

Liz MacMenamin, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

Today I come before you as a blood donor and a blood recipient who recognizes the importance of what this bill brings forward. As a blood recipient, I realize how important it is that we increase the number of donors as we get blood to the people who need it. As an O negative blood donor who is constantly called to come in and donate, I would like to see more donors available.

This is a good bill. I give credit to sitting here before you and being able to testify today to the fact that I received a blood donation many years ago. I ask that you consider this bill.

Cheryl Blomstrom, representing Nevada Nurses Association:

I am speaking for my two children, who are both blood donors, and I have been a blood donor all my life. I think I passed that along to my children; it was passed to me by my mom. It does make a difference if there is a pattern of donation in the family. The younger you can capture their imagination and speak to them about the necessity of giving back, the better. It is a very simple process and I do it routinely.

Speaking for the nurses, you have heard about the blood shortage in Nevada and about the key importance of having enough blood donations in our state. Anything we can do to encourage that increase we support.

Bill Welch, representing Nevada Hospital Association:

I am also here today to speak in support of this legislation. Periodically, over time, we have had blood shortages in the state that have caused challenges for us at the hospitals ensuring that we are able to meet our patients' needs. Numerous times over the years our hospitals have had to reach out to the American Red Cross and try to address those supply shortages. To the extent that this legislation will help increase the blood availability for the patients of Nevada, we are very supportive.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Are there any questions from the Committee for these three witnesses? [There was no response.] Is there anyone else in support? Is there anyone in opposition or neutral in either Carson City or Las Vegas? [There was no response.] Would you like to give some closing remarks, Mr. Duncan?

Assemblyman Duncan:

I would urge your support on this bill. I really feel it would help increase the blood supply and encourage younger donors.

Chair Dondero Loop:

I will now close the hearing on Assembly Bill 183 and open the hearing on Assembly Bill 200. This bill revises provisions relating to food establishments.

Assembly Bill 200: Revises provisions relating to food establishments. (BDR 40-129)

Assemblyman Crescent Hardy, Clark County Assembly District No. 19:

I am here to introduce Assembly Bill 200. [Mr. Hardy read his testimony from prepared text ([Exhibit E](#)).] We are calling this bill the farm-to-fork bill. Last night we sat down with a number of state and county representatives who had

some concerns with the bill. I think we are all in agreement, but I will let the state and county representatives speak for themselves.

We have stricken basically everything out of section 4 of the bill beginning on line 26, page 2 where it reads, ". . . for sale, or which offers or displays a food item for sale." Also stricken is the language on line 32 page 2 through and including line 38 on page 3. We did that because Senate Bill 206 has some of the same features, and there was no need to duplicate the language. We believed it was better to only introduce the legislation we needed.

With me today is Laura Bledsoe, and she is the reason we are here. She will tell you what she is looking for.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Are there any questions?

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson:

I have a question about section 4, subsection 1, paragraph (g), subparagraph (1) where it mentions that the food cannot have any type of preservation by means of smoking, curing, dehydration, or the addition of preservatives. Does that exclude barbeque?

Assemblyman Hardy:

It does exclude those.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Would you clarify what is being stricken from the bill, please?

Laura Bledsoe, Owner, Quail Hollow Farm, Overton, Nevada:

Yes, we are striking the language on page 2, line 32 from paragraph (b) all the way through line 38 on page 3. In regard to the prior question, that is stricken from the bill so barbeque would be allowed.

Assemblywoman Spiegel:

You just referred to Senate Bill 206, which I presented with Senator Ford yesterday. We struck part of what you are talking about striking because we thought it would be addressed in this bill. After this hearing, we should get together to make sure too much is not being stricken to hinder the intent of this bill.

Assemblyman Hardy:

I concur with that.

Assemblyman Martin:

I understand the intent of this bill; however, I am uneasy. When I look at section 3, subsection 2, paragraph (a), it reads, "Before a guest consumes any food, provide each guest with a notice which states that no inspection was conducted by a state or local health department . . ." That almost implies that the guests are taking a risk by eating this food. I do not know if that is true or not, but could you educate me a little, because it sounds a little risky?

Laura Bledsoe:

This was not something I put into the bill; it is something that the health officials were more comfortable with. The intent is that the consumer is making an educated choice. Consumers would know what the parameters are and could say whether they would rather eat from a place that has had complete inspection or whether they are comfortable eating at a location of their choice without having health officials involved.

Assemblyman Oscarson:

I am supportive of this bill and have attended events at Quail Hollow and enjoyed them very much. This is much like when you go into a sushi bar. There is a disclaimer posted that you are eating raw or uncooked food. It is just a disclaimer making the public aware that those situations exist. You are just going a step farther by having people sign an acknowledgment. I look at this as being much the same as when I go into a sushi bar and read that disclaimer.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Are there any additional questions at this point? [There was no response.]
Would you like to make any further comments?

Laura Bledsoe:

The farm-to-fork movement is becoming popular throughout the world. I was asked earlier by several health department officials if I knew why that was. My reply is that there is a real need in our nation to get back to our roots, not only for health issues, but also for community. We are hungry for community in the sense of drawing together in positive ways. Farms are typically in rural settings outside the metropolitan areas. They are not generally set up with stainless steel and the latest technology for food production. Very simple meals can be prepared, such as barbeques, and this has been going on for generations.

Where this bill got a bit sticky was the fact that we opened to the public. Feeling the need to be compensated, at least for the food that was provided, we charged a fee. That is where the whole issue of permitting became a sticky subject. This will not just affect my farm; this will affect farms throughout Nevada. We really want to encourage production of agriculture here in Nevada.

We want our children to come to the farm. We often have events on the farm that allow children, families, and couples to come and see where their food is coming from.

We have a community-supported agriculture (CSA) program, which means that we provide vegetables on a weekly basis to families in the Las Vegas or southern Nevada areas. Those people want to know where their food is coming from, how it is grown, and whether it is being grown under methods and philosophies they are familiar with. It gives them the opportunity to have an on-farm experience. As the children love to come and pet the small animals, adults like to eat. We like them to have the opportunity to taste flavor—like a ripe tomato unlike any you may have had before. We like to provide those opportunities, promote farm-fresh food, and promote farms throughout Nevada. We feel it is important to encourage that connection with farmers without overregulation. We worked very diligently with the health officials in trying to promote legislation they are comfortable with as well.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Under section 3, subsection 2, paragraphs (a) and (b), the language reads that inspection was conducted and guests signed acknowledgements. If a guest signs the acknowledgement, does that absolve the farm of liability?

Assemblyman Hardy:

I do not believe that it will absolve them from that liability. There is liability in anything you do nowadays.

Chair Dondero Loop:

I asked because I sponsored a bill in my first session for Three Square Food Bank and there was a difference between civil and criminal liability. I just wondered if you had touched upon that.

Laura Bledsoe:

We are beginning to touch upon that. Glenn Savage is in Las Vegas today and has proposed some amendments that would be added to this bill that would do the traceability. We would register with them. There would be no fee and no permit, but the location of our farm and contact numbers would be registered. If there was an issue, it could be traced back and investigated. If it was proven that the farm was negligent in any way, then the costs would be covered.

Assemblyman Eisen:

Looking at section 3, subsection 1, paragraph (a) the language reads, "Any poultry and meat, including, without limitation, meat from a rabbit . . ." In the proposed amendment the language is narrowed specifically to poultry and meat

from a rabbit. Is there a particular concern with that, and are those concerns not present with other kinds of meats?

Laura Bledsoe:

The reason why poultry and rabbit are specified is because the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations do not allow on-farm processing of livestock—the red meats, cattle, pork, and lamb—but does allow exemptions for poultry and rabbit.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Any additional questions from the Committee? [There were none.] Will those in support please come forward?

Doug Busselman, representing Nevada Farm Bureau:

Over this past week we have spent a lot of time interacting with the health officials to develop solutions to address concerns over food safety, both with the Senate bill concerned with cottage industries that was heard yesterday, and with today's bill. We have been involved in working cooperatively to come up with the proposal that is in the Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) for the amended versions of the language you have before you.

The reason much of the bill language was cut out had to do with the fact that we are meeting the standards for both cottage industries as well as for farms so those two systems match up in terms of requirements for appropriate food safety issues. A lot of it will actually not be included in the statutes, it will be done through the practices that are involved with the registration systems and other kinds of training that are required in order to be a participant in this type of enterprise.

We have also added language that deals with making certain that the farm involved in this enterprise is registered with the State Department of Agriculture and that there are appropriate approaches taken there. That language is in the amended version in section 4 at line 31 ([Exhibit F](#)). We are supporting both the Senate version as well as this bill, and have been very appreciative of being able to work with the health officials to resolve the issues that needed to be given attention. We are looking forward to the opportunity to proceed. This will provide greater economic opportunity for Nevada's farms and ranches as well as other enterprises that are involved in this type of activity.

Rick Lattin, Owner, Lattin Farms, Fallon, Nevada:

I own a certified organic farm in Fallon, Nevada, and do many of the things you are talking about. I have the first on-farm licensed kitchen in the state. We do farm-to-table dinners. We invite chefs to our farm. Yesterday, the Executive

Director of NevadaGrown talked about how much money it cost me to build my facility and how limiting that can be to farmers. We need many more farm-to-table types of events.

I am here today also representing NevadaGrown. NevadaGrown is a Nevada nonprofit whose purpose is to educate and help market Nevada's producers and Nevada's farms. For those who are not aware of Nevada agriculture, it is one of the largest industries in the state. It is a growing industry with many opportunities. In the last few years, our organization has seen an increased interest in locally grown food, including demand from restaurants and retailers. This bill is an opportunity to expand sales for Nevada farmers and ranchers, and we recommend its approval. What is good for agriculture in this state is good for the state. We spent the last 50 years separating urban areas from farms, but now there is a very strong movement to bring those back together. People want to experience farms; they want to experience local food; they want to meet the people who are growing their food. They want to see where their food comes from.

As far as food safety is concerned, almost all of the farmers, and probably all of the farmers involved in this effort, live and work on their farms. They have a great interest in serving wholesome, safe food to their customers.

Ray Johnson, Owner, Custom Gardens Farm & CSA, Silver Springs, Nevada:

[Mr. Johnson provided a letter in support of A.B. 200 ([Exhibit G](#)).] We have a Nevada-certified organic farm. We are farm No. 001. I would like to tell you a short story about our partnering with Silver Springs Elementary School in 2010 for a snack program they had a grant for. We had 367 elementary school children at our farm and fed them yellow watermelon. Here is the kicker: We had to send the watermelons to the school. The school had to process the watermelons, cut them into pieces, and bring them back to the farm in order to serve them. I think this bill will help solve that challenge. Passing this bill should be a priority interest for the betterment of Nevada agriculture in general, as well as for Nevada citizens seeking locally produced foods or a direct connection to their farm through community-supported agriculture, farmers' markets, or on-farm produce stands, and farm-to-fork or farm-to-table events where farm foods are served. It is time to do the best you can for Nevada agriculture. Assembly Bill 200 is giving farmers tools for additional successful opportunities.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Are there any questions for our three gentlemen? Is there anyone in support in Las Vegas?

Glenn D. Savage, Environmental Health Director, Southern Nevada Health District:

I would like to thank Assemblyman Hardy, Senator Joe Hardy, and the Bledsoe family and others who help educate all of us to the need for farmers to be able to present food products in our communities. The Southern Nevada Health District is in agreement with the intent of the bill and with the amendments offered and, hopefully, accepted by the Committee and both houses. We would be in complete support of this bill. I submitted some amendments to the Legislative Counsel Bureau ([Exhibit H](#)) this afternoon. I believe Ms. Bledsoe testified a few minutes ago that she would be in support of those amendments. Those amendments are in line with Senate Bill 206 sponsored by Senator Ford and Assemblywoman Spiegel. I testified on that bill yesterday. On page 3 of the document we provided ([Exhibit H](#)) we have earmarked the amendments by coloring them in green. If you like, I could read those into the record.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Yes, please go through them so we are clear on them.

Glenn Savage:

These are very much the same as what we offered yesterday on S.B. 206. At page 3, line 38, where the word "safety" was stricken, we placed a new paragraph to establish a registry. That paragraph reads:

2. Prior to operation, each farm wishing to engage in farm-to-fork food events must register the operation with the state or local health authority having jurisdiction over the location of the farm by farm name, person, address, and contact information.

The next point reads:

4. The state or local health authority may set fees to offset the cost incurred for establishing and maintaining the farm-to-fork registry.

The key word to that language is "may" set fees. We have already priced this out, and for the Southern Nevada Health District we are talking about approximately a \$10 fee to register—something very minimal.

The next point has to do with food protection and food safety. It reads:

5. The state or local health authority shall not conduct inspections of the farm-to-fork events. The health authority shall retain the

right to investigate foodborne illness and food adulteration complaints.

(a) The operator of the farm-to-fork event will cooperate with the investigation of a foodborne illness complaint as required in NAC 441A 530(1) and (2) and cooperate with an investigation of a food adulteration complaint as defined in NRS 585.300-360.

(b) If an investigation of foodborne illness or an adulteration complaint is determined to be valid, the health authority may collect fees and all actual costs associated with the investigation from the natural person holding the farm-to-fork event.

Those are the amendments that we are proposing. As we discussed yesterday under S.B. 206, the Southern Nevada Health District plans to work with the State Health Division, Carson City, and Washoe County in providing food safety information on our website. Currently, the Health District has food safety information on our website that we refer to as the FERL, which actually means the Food Establishment Research Library. That gives information to everyone involved in food safety including management. It is information on the risk factors that prevent foodborne illnesses, general safety, and public health concerns with food management. We are more than willing to offer that to the Bledsoe family and other farmers who would like to have these farm-to-fork events as just good public health and food safety information.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Have you discussed the amendment with the sponsor of the bill?

Glenn Savage:

We were a little late getting this to them. I got them to Joe Pollock who runs the State Health Division, and I believe Joe spoke with some of the sponsors. It sounded as though Ms. Bledsoe had heard about them, and I heard that Mr. Busselman also had heard our amendments. I was told that they were not opposed to those amendments. Again, I offer these amendments, and it is my understanding that the parties I mentioned were okay with the proposed amendments.

Joseph L. Pollock, Program Manager, Environmental Health Section, Public Health & Clinical Services, Nevada State Health Division:

We had discussions yesterday and came up with some language we believe to be in line with what we are trying to accomplish for food safety as well as what Ms. Bledsoe would like to do with her events.

The amendments brought up by Mr. Savage were discussed yesterday in S.B. 206. During our discussions, we assumed those amendments would cross over to the same section of the NRS we are talking about. When I brought those amendments to Ms. Bledsoe's attention, she was in favor. I talked to Assemblyman Hardy and he seems to be in favor of those as well.

I would like to answer two questions that were brought up previously. The first question was about the food processes that were removed from the language of the bill. The reason they were removed was that they implied these processes would be used for the farmers' market foods listed in the cottage food bill, S.B. 206. The foods that are listed on that bill are a very short list of foods. Those processes are not used to prepare those foods, so it was confusing that they would be in the bill and would imply that there were other foods that could be done using those methods. That is why those sections were removed.

As far as chicken and rabbit being listed in this bill, the USDA does prevent any butchering of red meat without a USDA inspector present. They do allow exemptions for poultry and rabbits. Through that exemption, we can permit any farm to process poultry and rabbits, but they would be permitted through our office and we would do inspections on those facilities and make sure they had adequate equipment to do that processing.

The original intent was possibly to butcher the meat right there on the farm for the farm-to-fork event. That has been taken out. If they want to butcher poultry and rabbits they can, but they would have to be permitted. Then that poultry and rabbit could be served at that farm-to-fork event.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Any questions from the Committee? [There were none.] One of the reasons I was asking if you had talked to the bill's sponsor was because our new rules state that if you are in support, then the sponsor has to be in agreement with it; otherwise you are in opposition.

Joseph P. Iser, M.D., District Health Officer, Washoe County Health District:

I testified yesterday in favor of Senate Bill 206. The preliminary remarks I gave yesterday are the same today. I am from a farm family; I am from Missouri and I know how precariously many farm families live. We had several meetings yesterday with Assemblyman Hardy, Ms. Bledsoe, and Doug Busselman and we are in favor, as Mr. Savage said, of this bill with the amendments.

Chair Dondero Loop:

Are there any comments or questions from the Committee? [There were none.] I do not see anyone else in Las Vegas in support, so we will go to those in

opposition here in Carson City. [There was no response.] Is there any opposition in Las Vegas? Is there anyone neutral? Assemblyman Hardy, do you have any further comments before I close the hearing?

Assemblyman Hardy:

I just want to thank this Committee.

Assemblyman Oscarson:

This has been a long road. Several years ago an event occurred at Quail Hollow Farm and I commend you, Ms. Bledsoe and Assemblyman Hardy for the journey you have taken, for what you do and what you represent. Not just for yourself, but for the other folks who want to participate in these events as well. Thank you very much.

Chair Dondero Loop:

I would also make note for the record that there is written testimony in support from Ann Louhela ([Exhibit I](#)) with NevadaGrown that will be on NELIS as she could not be here today.

Is there any public comment? [There was none.] Are there any comments from the Committee members? [There were none.] As we move forward, Committee members, I would like you to be aware that we may need Tuesday meetings and later Friday meetings to move through our bills, so please plan your travel accordingly. We will try to give you timely notice. This meeting is adjourned [at 2:38 p.m.].

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Terry Horgan
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Health and Human Services

Date: March 20, 2013

Time of Meeting: 1:37 p.m.

| Bill | Exhibit | Witness / Agency | Description |
|-------------|----------------|---|--|
| | A | | Agenda |
| | B | | Attendance Roster |
| A.B. 183 | C | Assemblyman Wesley Duncan | Blood collection practices in other states |
| A.B. 183 | D | Clara Andriola, American Red Cross | Letter in support |
| A.B. 200 | E | Assemblyman Cresent Hardy | Testimony in support |
| A.B. 200 | F | Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau | Proposed amendment |
| A.B. 200 | G | Ray Johnson, Custom Gardens Farm & CSA | Letter in support |
| A.B. 200 | H | Glenn Savage, Southern Nevada Health District | Proposed amendment |
| A.B. 200 | I | Ann Louhela, NevadaGrown | Testimony in support |