

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-Seventh Session  
May 27, 2013**

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Joyce Woodhouse at 3:32 p.m. on Monday, May 27, 2013, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412E of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 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 Joyce Woodhouse, Chair  
Senator Aaron D. Ford, Vice Chair  
Senator Ruben J. Kihuen  
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske  
Senator Donald G. Gustavson

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Michael Sprinkle, Assembly District No. 30

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pepper Sturm, Policy Analyst  
Asher Killian, Counsel  
Sara Weaver, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Christopher Roller, American Heart Association  
Craig Hulse  
Calli Fisher, Washoe County School District  
Joyce Haldeman, Clark County School District  
David Byerman, Secretary of the Senate

**Chair Woodhouse:**

The hearing is open for Assembly Bill (A.B.) 414.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 414 (1st Reprint)**: Requires a course of study in health to include, to the extent money is available for this purpose, instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator for certain grade levels. (BDR 34-204)

**Christopher Roller (American Heart Association):**

The Committee has received my written testimony ([Exhibit C](#)). In addition, the Committee has received written statements from Dr. David Slattery ([Exhibit D](#)), Melanie Afromsky ([Exhibit E](#)) and Dr. Scott Lamprecht ([Exhibit F](#)) in support of A.B. 414.

Sections 1 and 2 require that health classes include instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The bill requirements apply to the extent that resources are available to schools. Sections 1 and 2 also include an exemption for students taking health classes online and for students who are physically unable to perform CPR. Section 3 addresses requirements for private schools.

The American Heart Association and the American Red Cross want to ensure that students are taught CPR. Sudden cardiac arrest can happen anytime or anywhere and to anyone. The cause can be a heart attack, trauma or a variety of other factors. Sudden cardiac arrest happens without notice to persons of any age. Time is of the essence in this situation. Within 10 minutes, the chances for survival are significantly reduced for a person who has not received CPR and/or treatment with an AED. The chances for survival are reduced by 10 percent each minute the victim does not receive treatment. It is essential that CPR be performed before first responders arrive on the scene. Of the total average of 383,000 victims of sudden cardiac arrest, only 10 percent survive. There is a 50 percent survival rate among patients in hospitals because staff is trained and equipment is available. This discrepancy in survival rates is caused by there not being a sufficient number of people in communities who are trained in CPR. By ensuring CPR is taught in schools, we will add millions of trained rescuers to the population as students cycle through the education system. Students trained in CPR would be ready and willing to provide CPR to sudden cardiac arrest victims. Many of these incidents take place in the home and at large sporting events. Students trained in CPR could put their skills to good use.

One school in Long Island, New York, has been training students in CPR for many years. In this school alone, graduates of CPR training have saved 16 lives.

Imagine what could be accomplished if students throughout Nevada were trained in CPR. Additional lives would be saved because of CPR training.

The CPR education can be incorporated into the curriculum of health classes. Assembly Bill 414 specifies students will be educated, not certified. The bill calls for hands-only CPR instruction that takes place in one class period. We want to ensure that students have the opportunity to practice chest compressions. Schools may need equipment to provide this training. Schools may decide to partner with fire departments or other community partners. There are models we can use to provide equipment; to obtain volunteer instructors; to access video-based programs; to obtain reusable mannequins; or to work with local agencies to provide equipment.

Schools prepare students to contribute to the community and prepare them with essential life skills. The CPR skills are among the most critical life-saving skills a student can have. These skills will make our communities safer year after year.

**Senator Cegavske:**

Does the bill limit this training to high school students only?

**Mr. Roller:**

Yes. Originally, the bill called for CPR training to be included in all health classes. The bill was amended in the Assembly to include training for high school students only.

**Senator Cegavske:**

Are students in middle school too young to learn CPR?

**Mr. Roller:**

No, they are not too young. There has been research that indicates the ideal time for CPR instruction is in Grades 7 and 8. Children as young as age 6 can be taught CPR.

**Senator Cegavske:**

Why are we limiting this training to high school students?

**Mr. Roller:**

One of the school districts proposed to limit CPR training to high school students.

**Senator Cegavske:**

Middle school students would benefit from receiving CPR training because they babysit, and they may have younger siblings. Is there a difference between what is taught to adults and what is taught to children?

**Mr. Roller:**

The American Heart Association has a program called "Family & Friends CPR Anytime." Most courses in this program are taught with an adult-sized mannequin. However, there are infant-sized mannequins that can be used. The CPR instruction centers provide separate instruction on infant CPR. There are some differences in infant CPR and adult CPR. Infant CPR is not addressed in the bill.

I believe it is a good idea to provide CPR instruction to middle school students.

**Senator Cegavske:**

Is there a requirement for certain school staff to be trained in CPR?

**Chair Woodhouse:**

During my undergraduate training, CPR training was included in health education courses.

**Mr. Roller:**

It is my understanding that physical education teachers, coaches and nurses must be certified in CPR.

**Assemblyman Michael Sprinkle (Assembly District No. 30):**

I have been a firefighter/paramedic for 20 years. I recall the first time I attempted to revive an infant. It was a precious moment, but it was also a scary moment. I have often wondered what keeps people from helping someone who has gone into cardiac arrest. It has been my observation that fear keeps people from helping others. When people do not act, the person with cardiac arrest dies. The intent of this bill is to educate people so they will act in these situations.

Assembly Bill 414 will allow us to teach children the basics of CPR and to use their skills until first responders arrive. First responders typically do not arrive for 4 to 8 minutes after an emergency call is placed. During that period, the victim's brain is not receiving oxygen. They may not survive. We can teach children that it is appropriate to perform the basics of CPR.

I agree that CPR training could be expanded to include those students who are not yet in high school.

**Senator Cegavske:**

I believe that middle school students should have CPR training. Are AEDs in every school?

**Assemblyman Sprinkle:**

I do not know how many schools have AEDs. The operation of AEDs is simple. Even a middle school or high school student would be able to follow the instructions to operate an AED.

**Craig Hulse:**

I am a cardiac arrest survivor. I received life-saving CPR. I was revived by an AED. I support A.B. 414.

This bill is important for future Nevadans. A great place to start with CPR education is in schools. We will expand the pool of people trained to perform these lifesaving acts.

**Calli Fisher (Washoe County School District):**

The Washoe County School District (WCSD) recognizes the importance of this critical life skill for our students. We are dedicated to working with our community partners to provide this training.

This bill pertains to high school students because that is where we teach health standards.

**Senator Cegavske:**

There are also health classes in middle school. We should begin this training in middle school.

**Ms. Fisher:**

The WCSD staff believes it is best to begin CPR training in high school.

**Senator Gustavson:**

I support the idea of CPR training for students. Can CPR training be provided without passing this bill?

**Ms. Fisher:**

There is nothing precluding the WCSD from providing CPR training.

**Senator Gustavson:**

There are so many initiatives mandated for our schools. We continue to add to the workload of teachers. Teachers indicate that they do not have time to teach the basics. I consider CPR to be a basic skill, and I will support A.B. 414. However, I do not want to place more mandates on school districts.

**Ms. Fisher:**

The WCSD believes we must focus on our core mission of educating students. However, we also recognize CPR training as a critical skill for students.

**Joyce Haldeman (Clark County School District):**

The Clark County School District (CCSD) believes CPR training is essential. We will rely on community partners to assist us with this instruction.

We did not support the first iteration of this bill because it did not include the phrase, "to the extent money is available for this purpose." The expectation was that the CCSD would rely on volunteers to work with students. The CCSD has 49 high schools. A typical high school of 2,800 students has approximately 10 sections of health instruction. Because of this, it seemed unrealistic to rely on volunteers for CPR instruction. We could not accept this as a mandate.

Some schools already provide CPR education. The CPR education can be provided without passing the bill. However, the intent of the bill is to help people recognize the importance of CPR education.

I suggest we provide CPR education to either middle school or high school students, but not both. It was determined that it would be more effective for high school students.

In each of the CCSD schools, physical education teachers, first aid safety assistants, nurses and other support staff are CPR/AED certified. Trained staff members offer CPR training to other staff members.

This is a resource issue for CCSD. There will be costs for the materials needed to provide this instruction. In addition, there will be costs in terms of the time involved for students to devote toward CPR training.

The CCSD recognizes the importance of CPR training. The CCSD appreciates the recognition of the fiscal limitations of school districts.

**Senator Cegavske:**

I recommend that CPR training begin in middle school. I will support the bill.

**Chair Woodhouse:**

If this bill is passed in its present state, will CPR training begin in Grade 9?

**Ms. Haldeman:**

Students take health classes at different grade levels.

**Chair Woodhouse:**

We need to know the grade level in which health classes begin. I agree with Senator Cegavske that CPR training should begin in middle school.

**Mr. Roller:**

I will find out the grade level in which health classes begin, and I will forward that information to you.

**Chair Woodhouse:**

The hearing on A.B. 414 is closed. The Committee will hear public comments.

**David Byerman (Secretary of the Senate):**

I am not all about work all the time. Occasionally, our staff does things to have fun. Today, a member of our staff entered a competition, won the competition and had to work during your Committee meeting. I am here to embarrass the winner of the Senate cookie bake off.

Senator Moises (Mo) Denis, Senator Joseph P. Hardy and Legislative Counsel Bureau Director Rick Combs were the judges of the contest. The Senators were

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extraordinarily serious about judging the competition. Senator Denis sniffed and nibbled on each cookie submission. Senator Hardy prepared a spreadsheet with five columns where he noted such qualities as healthiness and taste of each submission.

I am pleased to announce the winner of the cookie contest is Diana Jones, Committee Secretary for the Senate Committee on Education.



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**Chair Woodhouse:**

The meeting is adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Sara Weaver,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Chair

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

<b><u>EXHIBITS</u></b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>		<b>Witness / Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
	B	2		Attendance Roster
A.B. 414	C	2	Christopher Roller	Written Testimony
A.B. 414	D	1	Dr. David E. Slattery	Written Statement
A.B. 414	E	1	Melanie Afromsky	Written Statement
A.B. 414	F	1	Dr. Scott W. Lamprecht	Written Statement