

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

**Eightieth Session  
February 27, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor was called to order by Chair Pat Spearman at 1:37 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 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 Pat Spearman, Chair  
Senator Kelvin Atkinson, Vice Chair  
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro  
Senator James Ohrenschall  
Senator Chris Brooks  
Senator Joseph P. Hardy  
Senator James A. Settelmeyer  
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Yvanna D. Cancela, Senatorial District No. 10  
Senator Moises Denis, Senatorial District No. 2  
Senator Ira Hansen, Senatorial District No. 14  
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles, Assembly District No. 25

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cesar Melgarejo, Policy Analyst  
Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Policy Analyst  
Bryan Fernley, Committee Counsel  
Jennifer Richardson, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gary Landry, Executive Director, State Board of Cosmetology

Marcos Lopez, Americans for Prosperity  
Fran Almaraz, Teamsters Local 631; Teamsters Local 986; International Alliance  
of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720  
James Harmer, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 631  
Laura Sims, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 631  
Bill Botos, Instructor, Southern Nevada Teamsters 631 Convention Training and  
Construction Training  
Randy Soltero, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees;  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
Omar Saucedo, Springs Preserve  
Jerry Helmuth, President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees  
Local 720  
Tom Morley, Laborers Union Local 872  
Matt Kimball, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720  
Rusty McAllister, Nevada State American Federation of Labor and Congress of  
Industrial Organizations  
Rick McCann, Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers; Nevada Law  
Enforcement Coalition  
Mike Ramirez, Las Vegas Police Protective Association  
William Stanley, Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions  
Marlene Lockard, Service Employees International Union Local 1107  
Josh Griffin, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority  
James Sullivan, Culinary Union  
Bob Ostrovsky, Nevada Resort Association  
Zachary Rhodes  
Mark Allen  
Jennee Rhodes  
William Process  
Jenny Field  
Patti Jesinoski  
Mitch Stewart  
Ronda Gentry  
Abby Field  
Dave Wuest, Executive Secretary, State Board of Pharmacy  
Neena Laxalt, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Jennifer Pedigo, Executive Director, State Board of Veterinary Medical  
Examiners  
Steve Damonte, Chair, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners  
Ronald Sandoval, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

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Dennis Wilson, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association; Administrator, Animal  
Emergency and Specialty Center  
Michelle Peacock, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association  
Richard Simmonds

VICE CHAIR ATKINSON:

We will begin the hearing with Senate Bill (S.B.) 208.

**SENATE BILL 208**: Revises provisions governing cosmetology. (BDR 54-565)

SENATOR MOISES DENIS (Senatorial District No. 2):

I would like to present S.B. 208 with Assemblywoman Jill Tolles. This bill changes the law regarding cosmetology. The field of cosmetology started in 1931. There are 35,000 current cosmetology licenses and registrations. I toured the facilities at the State Board of Cosmetology and was surprised by the amount of technology in place at the Board's office.

The Board operates with an open and transparent process. They held subcommittee meetings to discuss the changes found in S.B. 208. After the subcommittee meetings, a Board meeting was held. The items in the bill were discussed at a public meeting and the Board took a vote. During the meetings, no objections were voiced on the items contained in the bill.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JILL TOLLES (Assembly District No. 25):

Senators Denis and Ratti, former Assembly members Irene Bustamante Adams and Nelson Araujo and I are part of the Occupational Licensing Policy Learning Consortium that was brought together by the Council of State Governments, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governors Association as part of a three year working consortium to address issues on occupational licensing and to work with various boards. Our collaborative efforts during the Interim were part of the process in cosponsoring S.B. 208.

The Board of Cosmetology is an active part of our working group. The Consortium was able to attend a conference on cosmetology in Florida. In that conference we learned that Nevada is the gold standard of occupational licensing for cosmetology. This bill further advances Nevada's reputation in the industry.

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GARY LANDRY (Executive Director, State Board of Cosmetology):  
I am presenting S.B. 208. I will read from a prepared statement ([Exhibit C](#)).

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:  
I need to disclose that my spouse has a cosmetology license.

Does the reduction of hours match the requirements at the national level? Are the required number of hours similar to neighboring states?

MR. LANDRY:  
The reduced hours comply with the national standard. The national standard for aestheticians and hair designers is 600 and 1,000 hours, respectively.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:  
How does that compare to surrounding states?

MR. LANDRY:  
The requirements are equal to California, Arizona and Utah. In Idaho the required hours are 675.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:  
How were eyelash extensions and eyelash perming defined before the bill? If a person performing these services does not have an aesthetician license, can they continue to perform these services? Can a hair designer perform these services?

MR. LANDRY:  
Those services are performed by aestheticians and cosmetologists. It was not defined in the scope of services. Cosmetologists perform on hair, skin and nails. Hair designers perform on hair, but cannot perform eyelash extensions and eyelash perming. They cannot perform facial services.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:  
Do you expect people currently performing those services to lose the ability to continue that practice?

MR. LANDRY:  
No, I do not.

MARCOS LOPEZ (Americans for Prosperity):

We are in support of S.B. 208. The bill lowers the barriers for individuals wishing to pursue their passions. Nevada has a licensing occupational problem. Louisiana, Washington and California are states that require more licensing than Nevada.

The Mercatus Center at George Mason University analyzed a wide range of studies on licensing. The evidence of the study suggests two things. First, licensing requirements do not improve the quality of goods and services provided by licensed occupations.

Second, licensing prohibits potential service providers who find those hurdles costly to overcome. The best policy would be to remove government licensing of cosmetology rather than to reduce the requirements.

VICE CHAIR ATKINSON:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 208. We will open the hearing on S.B. 119.

**SENATE BILL 119**: Requires certain health and safety training for workers and supervisors performing work at sites where exhibitions, conventions or trade shows occur. (BDR 53-570)

SENATOR YVANNA D. CANCELA (Senatorial District No. 10):

I am presenting S.B. 119. This bill addresses safety in our convention industry. Las Vegas is a top-ranking trade show destination. It is important to have a well-trained and safe workforce. Senate Bill 119 requires certain employees and supervisors performing work at sites where exhibitions, conventions or trade shows occur to complete certain health and safety training. This training is also known as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 and OSHA 30.

This bill is similar to A.B. No. 190 of the 79th Session, which applies to workers and supervisory employees within the entertainment industry and A.B. No. 148 of the 75th Session which applies to workers and supervisors in the construction industry.

Sections 3 through 7 of the bill provide the definitions needed to carry out the bill. They define OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 courses. They define site, supervisory employee and worker.

Section 8 exempts volunteers and workers who are not paid from the required OSHA training.

Section 9 requires the Division of Industrial Relations to approve OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 courses required to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Section 10 requires an OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 trainer to conspicuously display an OSHA trainer card at the location where training is provided.

Section 11 specifies that a worker must obtain a completion card for an OSHA 10 course approved by the Division or complete an alternative course offered by his or her employer no later than 15 days after the date of hire. Similarly, a supervisory employee must obtain a completion card for an OSHA 30 course or complete an alternative course offered by his or her employer.

Section 12 requires an employer to suspend or terminate an employee or a supervisory employee who does not complete the required training within 15 days of hire.

Section 13 provides that an employer who fails to suspend or terminate an employee, as required in section 12 of the bill, is subject to an administrative fine.

Section 16 allows employees or supervisors to satisfy the requirement of obtaining an OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 completion card by completing an alternative course offered by their employer. An employee who completes an alternative course must complete the approved course by January 1, 2021. Employers must maintain and make available to the Division a record of all employees who have completed an alternative course until a date to be established by the Division by regulation.

Teamsters Local 631 has submitted proposed amendments ([Exhibit D](#)) that I will discuss. The first change allows OSHA Construction Industry and General Industry safety courses to satisfy the course requirements in sections 3 and 4.

The proposed amendments eliminate the words "public shows" from section 5. The intent is to cover convention industry workers. The bill is not meant for food servers in a convention space.

The proposed amendments elaborate the definition of "worker" in section 7 to reflect the kinds of work that would be captured under this bill.

FRAN ALMARAZ (Teamsters Local 631; Teamsters Local 986; International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720):

Nevada has one of the largest convention and trade show industries in the nation. The intent of this bill is to have a standardized mechanism for safety. There are three people with me from the convention industry who will explain how a trade show is constructed and how it is removed. There is little time to construct trade shows; therefore, there are accidents. We will discuss some of the accidents that have happened on the show floor and show photos of those accidents ([Exhibit E](#)). At the end, we will answer questions about safety training.

JAMES HARMER (International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 631):

We are in support of S.B. 119. I am a Business Agent for the convention industry. I have 22 years of experience.

Trade shows in Nevada provide jobs for over 9,000 skilled workers. Each trade show venue experiences a similar spectacle of workers tasked with building a small city. They showcase airplanes, excavators, computers and clothing.

We refer to the structures that are built as booths. Examples of the types of booths range from a car on a rotating table to a still scene from your favorite movie. These displays are what trade shows create. Instead of months of construction and ample space to produce the event, trade show workers build these booths in a few days.

First, the trucks arrive. The forklift workers immediately unload the contents and distribute them throughout thousands of square feet of showroom floor. The Las Vegas Convention Center is millions of square feet. Forklifts move endless lines of crates, skids and machines across the floor. Dozens of workers create a life-size blueprint on the empty floor by taping thousands of lines and corners that will become the individual booth spaces.

Stagehands and electricians start moving their material into the building and laying out electrical lines. Workers build massive structures and hang huge trusses to house millions of lights and hundreds of speakers. They create lighting and sound effects for each individual booth. As the crates continue to

arrive, hundreds of booth-building workers start to empty the crates and construct the stands.

Examples of dangerous situations during construction include a person standing atop a 12 foot ladder carrying a small tray inches away from a forklift operator hauling a 5 ton crate down an 8 foot aisle. Across the same aisle, workers are building a two-story steel frame with nothing to prevent them from falling off of the ledge and landing in front of the same forklift driver.

Next, workers rig the building from seven by eight foot wide boom lifts. The lifts extend operators 40 feet into the air. From the top of the lifts, workers hang signs and lights 30 feet above the heads of other workers constructing booths. These skilled workers do this day after day.

Builders tag empty crates and stacks of skids for forklift operators to remove. They take these items out of the building through cramped aisles. The aisles are full of trash and debris from the packing materials removed from the crates.

As the empty crates are removed and booths are completed, the floor clears to reveal a perfectly built showroom filled with cutting edge new products. It takes hundreds of workers to lay down tens of thousands of linear feet of carpet in the aisles. The show closes after three or four days, and the thousands of workers come back to reverse the process. This is known as teardown or loading out.

Workers carefully dismantle the structures, putting materials back into the crates that are moved by the forklift operators. Once the booths are packed and loaded into the trucks, the floor is cleared to make way for the next event that will move in later that day. The loading in and out of the shows happens rapidly. Construction injuries occur at every event.

We believe the OSHA safety training mandate for all workers will help to minimize injuries and to create a safer workplace for the trade show industry.

LAURA SIMS (International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 631):

We are in support of S.B. 119. I am a Business Agent for the convention industry. I have 20 years of experience in the convention industry. I am here to testify about accidents that have occurred at the work sites.



The serious accident involving a scissor lift, shown in [Exhibit E](#), occurred when workers were assigned to bring down a heavy truss using that lift. A scissor lift is not intended to be used to raise or lower parts. It is used to safely raise workers to a stable level where it will continue to operate up or down as needed, so the worker can use his or her hands for a task.

If the supervisors had the appropriate training, they would not demand the workers attempt this. This accident could have been avoided. If the worker in the basket had OSHA 10 training, he would not have tied a rope to the gate of the scissor lift. That act was responsible for tipping it over.

The worker in the basket tried to jump free. He escaped with a compound fracture to his leg. A fellow worker below did not see the scissor lift falling. He went to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the hospital with numerous broken bones, a punctured lung, a lacerated liver, head trauma and more. This could have been avoided if the training required in [S.B. 119](#) was mandatory. [Exhibit E](#) shows some of the unsafe practices people do at trade show setups. They have no idea how to operate equipment safely; therefore, they put people at risk.

Trade shows contribute to the local economy. We should make an effort to take care of the workers. These workers have training and years of experience. They live here, work here, shop here and raise their families here.

My husband and I have over 50 years of experience working on the trade show floor. We have seen many accidents and injuries during that time, including workers falling through upper decks and ladders collapsing. Injuries from accidents range from minor to severe, where the worker will not return to work. We have seen people step in front of forklifts and under condors.

One recent ladder accident resulted in a compound fracture. A different ladder accident resulted in injuries requiring several surgeries in the ICU. These accidents could have been avoided if we required safety training.

In 2018, a 32 year-old man sustained a severe head injury when he was moving freight and his forklift hit a column. His head hit the steel cage of his forklift. He sustained a concussion, required an ambulance ride and stayed at the hospital. Months later he had a severe stroke. He has to relearn everything.

If one of these accidents can be prevented with required safety training, we will have made a difference.

BILL BOTOS (Instructor, Southern Nevada Teamsters 631 Convention Training and Construction Training):

We are in support of S.B. 119. I am here to testify about General Industry OSHA Training and how it has a place in the convention industry. Nevada has taken the lead in aspects of employee and worker safety. Because of serious injuries and deaths of miners, Nevada set the groundwork on safety with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). Thanks to Nevada, MSHA is a recognized federal authority for mining safety.

Explosive growth and the expansion of building projects in southern Nevada have brought opportunity to the State. However, growth fueled and undercut the safety of thousands of tradesmen and women during Project City Center on the Las Vegas Strip. After workers died during its construction, Nevada took a stand for safety. Assembly Bill 148 of the 75th Session was passed and became *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 618.950. This enabled workers in the field of construction to have a standardized and universal background in basic construction safety through implementing the requirement of the OSHA 10 Construction Safety course throughout the State. Other states followed our lead, and they require construction workers to take this course. Unlike the construction industry and mining industries with baselines for safety performance, there are no established safety requirements for those in the convention industries in Nevada.

After a fatal accident at a Cirque du Soliel show in July 2013, Nevada realized the benefit of safety training by establishing NRS 618.9901. This standardized safety training for workers in the live entertainment industry. We need to consider the convention industry and look out for the thousands of Nevadans potentially in unsafe situations without proper training.

Teamsters Local 631 has been training workers on safety in southern Nevada since 1995 with the Southern Nevada Teamsters 631 Training Center. We have grown as a leader in safety training. Through grants offered by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, thousands of students have earned OSHA 10 Construction and OSHA 10 General Industry training class certifications.

The profession of setting up and taking down conventions is complicated. Although it is like a construction site, similar to Project City Center, it requires a special awareness only true professionals can obtain. State regulated convention apprentices learn this critical craft through convention journeymen and instructors. Workers need the OSHA 10 General Industry course. This course outlines some of the basic safety issues that workers may encounter when building booths at exhibitions.

If common sense was enough, safety would be easier. The blending of a variety of workers, experiences, skills and disciplines requires an orchestration of focus toward safety, otherwise tragedy will occur. After the implementation of the OSHA 10 General Industry standard, safety improved for live entertainment workers.

We presented [Exhibit D](#) for the protection of those in the convention trade.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I am concerned how this impacts rural counties. Have you reached out to the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority (ECVA)?

SENATOR CANCELA:

I have not reached out to the ECVA and they have not contacted us with any concerns.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I will reach out to them and find out who is their contact person. Conventions occur 24/7, 365 days a year in Las Vegas versus the 12 per year Elko may host.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

We were discussing the 15 days requirement for workers to obtain a card. Some folks work for a business and come to Nevada on a temporary basis, if a convention will be here for three days. These folks travel with their business to Nevada. They have a job, but they do not work at a convention site. They come with a business to set up a booth. Since they have a 15 days period to present a card, do they need a card?

They will be in and out of the area so no card is needed. Is that accurate?

RANDY SOLTERO (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; United Food and Commercial Workers International Union):

Yes and no. The requirement says that within 15 days you have to obtain a card when you are employed in the area. There are folks who come to set up the display, but the majority of the workers doing the setup are here locally.

We can require temporary people to get the card if we removed the 15 days requirement, but we have to have the 15 days requirement in the bill to comply with the law. We are not able to capture everybody.

Passing this bill will affect trade show workers similarly to the way construction and live entertainment workers were affected by their respective safety bills.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

I agree that training is important. I do not want to discourage businesses from holding their conventions in Nevada, because we created too high of a threshold for individuals who are setting up small, simple displays versus elaborate ones.

SENATOR CANCELA:

A company's employee setting up a pop-up banner is not the same as someone who is outlined in section 7 under "worker". The worker in section 7 is performing the heavier type of work. Usually that work is done locally. They are not the kinds of folks who come in with a company to do the smaller booth set up.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

There is an exclusion for catering in the revised definition of worker in the proposed amendments. There are folks who are on the floor who are not caterers. I do not think you can define every worker in the vicinity, but the definition looks broad. I am not sure how you would revise that language.

SENATOR CANCELA:

It is broad, but it does say convention service work is their primary job. Their primary function in a convention space is listed under these categories. Someone who is a sweeper would not be required to get a card. Their primary course of work has to be one of the roles listed.

MR. SOLTERO:

Security guards and other professions are not listed. The Nevada Resort Association had concerns about folks who set up round tables and chairs for a banquet. They are not installing or rigging booths. They are setting up for a banquet. This has been addressed. We are not capturing everybody who works in the hotel. We are limiting it to the folks who build convention booths and trade show displays, not caterers setting up tables and serving food.

MS. ALMARAZ:

In response to Senator Seevers Gansert's question, out of town people come to shows on a regular basis. For example, the Consumer Electronics Show has the same people attending every year. Those workers will be required to have an OSHA card, because they are working in our industry. They do not come once or once in a while.

If a small company attends one show and never comes back, the 15 days window gives them a chance to work. If it is a company that comes regularly (once, twice or five times per year), and their workers are on the floor many hours a day, they will be required to have the card. In conjunction with that, the Teamsters 631 Training Center will provide OSHA training free of charge to the workers.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I am unclear how we separate the people renting a booth and setting up a folding table from people building the booth. It is getting unclear as we go along. I am not sure that the bill clearly defines workers.

I am trying to figure out how we separate them, because I assume you are not trying to cover the people renting a booth or setting up a folding table. I assume you are seeking to cover people who are using ladders or mechanized machinery, such as the scissor lift that I saw earlier.

How do we make it clear to individuals?

MR. SOLTERO:

The language in the bill states it is the primary occupation of the person who is constructing the trade show. We did not define the folks who go in and set up for a banquet. Their primary occupation is not the trade show industry. It is catering. That is why we added that language. That is the intent of the bill.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

It is not your intent to require individuals setting up tables at a booth to be covered by OSHA 10 or OSHA 30? That is what they do on a regular basis.

As to what Ms. Almaraz said about an individual coming to a show every year and setting up a booth or table, are they required to have OSHA 10 or OSHA 30?

SENATOR CANCELA:

The intent of the bill is to capture folks who are workers at the convention space. It has to be their primary occupation and they have to be doing loading and unloading of equipment and materials and erecting and dismantling booths and structures, rigging and electrical work. They are workers at the site. They are not a worker at the convention space putting up a vendor's banner. That is different than someone who is working at the show doing one of these classifications of work.

Someone who comes as a vendor to display their shot glasses is different than the person who sets up the steel structure that hangs a banner. The folks we want to capture are the folks who are setting up the steel structure, not the folks who are putting out their shot glasses.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

Yes, that does answer my question. You are looking to capture the people setting up the structure of the booth. People setting up a folding table and putting a banner on the front are not who you are trying to cover. They do not stand on a ladder. Hopefully, that is not who you are trying to cover.

Ms. Almaraz indicated these individuals come regularly. They are setting up their booth, not the internal structure. I want to make sure we are not requiring people who come on a regular basis to set up a folding table to obtain this type of training.

MS. ALMARAZ:

We are comparing apples to oranges. People who work in the convention industry on a regular basis, not a vendor, are the people we are trying to capture.

Sometimes vendors will hire a business that provides labor for conventions. The laborers set up whatever the vendors need for their portion of the show. The vendors' portion of the show is not covered. The workers putting it together and putting it up are covered. The vendors come every year, but they do not work. They show their wares.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I need further clarification. An individual vendor and their employees are not covered. It will only be entities that they hire?

MS. ALMARAZ:

If they erect their booth, yes, they would need to have the OSHA training. If they are coming to show their wares and set out materials, no, they are not covered. People who are erecting structures, moving freight and hanging lights, are the people who need to have the OSHA training.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

I will follow up offline. I want it to be clear in the language.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

We need clarification in the language around the level of complexity of someone putting up a booth, using a ladder and erecting things versus setting out a table and putting up a pop-up banner. The complexity matters.

SENATOR CANCELA:

I think the proposed amendments, coupled with the description of the person's primary occupation, distinguishes between someone whose job is to be a sales person and someone who is there to be a vendor. It has to be someone onsite to perform one of the bigger set-up tasks as their primary course of work.

I am willing to have an offline conversation. I welcome clarifying language.

MS. ALMARAZ:

I will clarify. The pictures in [Exhibit E](#) show unsafe ladders. A vendor brought those ladders to erect his booth. Those are the people we are talking about who need training. If they come in to erect their booth on a yearly basis, they would need OSHA training. These people were from out of the country. They need safety, because they do not know what a ladder is. That is the difference I am describing.

CHAIR SPEARMAN:

Mr. Fernley, can you clarify on the language in the bill?

BRYAN FERNLEY (Committee Counsel):

I think the question as to whether the bill needs to be amended is a policy decision for the Committee. If the desire is to have more specific language as to who is required to have the training, that can be done. If the Committee is more comfortable with having more open-ended language, then the Committee could do that. It is a decision for the Committee to make. I do not have a legal conclusion either way.

CHAIR SPEARMAN:

The sponsor of the bill is willing to discuss this further. The Committee will get with the sponsor and address these concerns.

OMAR SAUCEDO (Springs Preserve):

We are in support of S.B. 119. We were confused about the language on workers. The Springs Preserve is a dynamic cultural center in Las Vegas. They offer numerous events. The events and the public participation represent the vibrant community that lives in Las Vegas. After reviewing the proposed amendments, our concerns have been addressed.

JERRY HELMUTH (President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720):

We are in support of S.B. 119. We represent thousands of workers who go into the trade show industry. The version of this bill for the entertainment industry has been positive.

TOM MORLEY (Laborers Union Local 872):

We are in support of S.B. 119.

MATT KIMBALL (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720):

We are in support of S.B. 119. I work as an audiovisual technician in the Las Vegas convention industry. I set up sound and video equipment for breakout rooms and lights for keynote speakers. Workplace safety is something I take seriously. Convention load-ins are a hub of activity as several departments work within a venue to bring a show to life.



During a load-in, forklifts carry gear to and from the loading dock or freight elevator. Workers on elevated platforms hang lights and projectors from the ceiling. Workers position scenic elements in their proper places. Audiovisual technicians set audio equipment in their designated places.

Utilizing the situational awareness skills taught in the OSHA 10 training is key. When I am working in these environments, maintaining a high level of situational awareness keeps me from walking into the path of an incoming elevated work platform. It allows me to work more efficiently and accomplish the task I am assigned. During load-outs, the electrocution hazard awareness training, covered in the OSHA 10 class, reinforced the need to adhere to proper operating protocols.

By being OSHA 10 certified, I have been able to stay safe on job sites, as well as help my coworkers do the same. I have been able to prevent future accidents by identifying faulty equipment and tagging it for repair or disposal.

Las Vegas continues to be a premier destination for meetings and conventions. Passing S.B. 119 would make it one of the safest in which to work.

RUSTY MCALLISTER (Nevada State American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations):

We are in support of S.B. 119 and the proposed amendments.

RICK MCCANN (Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers; Nevada Law Enforcement Coalition):

We are in support of S.B. 119 and the proposed amendments. There are no fiscal issues that I have seen. It is good for worker safety and safety of the public. We are cognizant of some of the concerns raised by the Senators.

MIKE RAMIREZ (Las Vegas Police Protective Association):

We are in support of S.B. 119.

WILLIAM STANLEY (Southern Nevada Building Trades Unions):

We are in support of S.B. 119 with the proposed amendments. We have many laborers who regularly work in convention spaces. Our members have the OSHA 10 card discussed in the proposed amendments.

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MARLENE LOCKARD (Service Employees International Union Local 1107):  
We are in support of S.B. 119.

JOSH GRIFFIN (Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority):  
We are in support of S.B. 119 and the proposed amendments.

JAMES SULLIVAN (Culinary Union):  
We are in support of S.B. 119 and the proposed amendments.

BOB OSTROVSKY (Nevada Resort Association):  
We are in support of S.B. 119 with the proposed amendments. I am a trustee for International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720 training trust. We provide training to any person who works under the agreement, whether they are a member or not.

We understand the importance of the convention business to the overall health of the industry. We do not want to upset that industry. At the same time, we want to provide a safe workplace. This legislation helps to prevent injuries. Our issues with the bill have been addressed in the proposed amendments.

Section 5 defines a convention site as a meeting facility which incorporates space for exhibitions and a substantial number of smaller spaces for meetings. That is easy to define at large casinos. We had concerns what it meant to a restaurant that puts on banquets. The target of the bill are convention facilities that host shows that move in and out on a regular basis, not a facility that has an occasional wedding.

Section 6 addresses a supervisory employee. The intent is to identify people who immediately supervise the folks who perform trade show work and their manager who is on the floor directing work. It does not extend to the hotel manager, the human resource director or any other managerial employee of a hotel. That is the intent. This is for the supervisors who will direct workers to perform duties.

Section 7 defines a worker. The proposed amendments are a good attempt to define who is covered. We did not want to cover banquet workers, people who set up tables and chairs, florists, photographers or other people who may work in a convention space or a catering space where a wedding or a banquet takes place. That is not the intent of the bill.

SENATOR CANCELA:

We are dealing with folks whose primary occupation is the heavy lifting that goes into making trade shows successful. The photos we looked at did not involve a banner or a pop-up table; they involved hard-core equipment that, when gone wrong, causes catastrophic accidents. That is the intent of the bill.

I want to stress the need for this bill. We have a higher incident rate of accidents in the convention industry than the national average. We need to make sure folks who are on our convention floor have the training they require to be safe, and to ensure our industry continues to thrive. We are attracting workers into the industry. This is for the folks who are in the industry today and for the future of the industry.

CHAIR SPEARMAN:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 119 and open the hearing on S.B. 156.

**SENATE BILL 156**: Exempts certain persons who perform certain dental services on equines and livestock from provisions governing veterinary medicine. (BDR 54-36)

SENATOR IRA HANSEN (Senatorial District No. 14):

I am here to present S.B. 156. My family has horses and my daughter was involved with a rodeo group. I met a man named Zachary Rhodes who came to examine my 30 year-old horse that was losing weight. He informed me that my horse needed to have his teeth floated. I did not know what teeth floating was. It is something you need to occasionally do for the horse's health, because horse teeth continuously grow.

Mr. Rhodes informed me that he could no longer perform teeth floating, because he had been given a cease and desist order and threatened with a \$500 fine.

This bill is about regulatory relief for equine dentists. My son is an anesthesiologist and my daughter-in-law is a nurse practitioner. I sat on the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor for a similar situation. They had regulations that prohibited anesthesiologists from performing certain practices, yet nurse practitioners with the same training could perform them.

There are nine million horses in the U.S. I researched situations where people have lost horses or have been injured due to teeth floating. I found no

indications of people being injured or horses lost due to teeth floating. There are eight states that have no regulations on teeth floating.

We are not asking for complete removal of regulations. We are asking to expand regulations to include people who are educated on equine dentistry. Those people can go to the International Association of Equine Dentistry (IAED) to be certified in an extensive course.

The gentlemen with me today will testify about their experience. In spite of their schooling, they are excluded from equine dentistry in Nevada. Their schooling for equine dentistry is higher than what veterinarians receive. Excluding these people does not make sense. It harms the consumers. It harms people who make an honest living.

ZACHARY RHODES:

I am in support of S.B. 156. I will be reading from a prepared statement ([Exhibit F](#)).

My journey here started five years ago with a cease and desist order and a \$500 fine. I stopped practicing equine dentistry, because it is a category D felony, one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine for practicing veterinary medicine without a license. While having a discussion with a veterinarian, I was told why equine dentists were not allowed to practice in Nevada. The veterinarian said if equine dentistry was legalized, she would tell her clients to find a new veterinarian. If I was to perform on her client's horses, I would be taking business away from her and money from her pockets.

Claims that equine dentists will be "given" prescription drugs or be allowed to administer controlled substances are not true. The laws on controlled substances are clear. We are not changing that law. I submitted a letter ([Exhibit G](#)) that shows Xylazine and Detomidine—used and prescribed by veterinarians to horse owners, breeders, farriers and trainers—are not listed as controlled substances. These are prescription drugs. They do not contain narcotic properties.

MARK ALLEN:

I am in support of S.B. 156. I have been an equine dentist for 15 years. I love what I do.

Before I was an equine dentist, I was an underground coal miner in Utah. I had a horse of my own. I paid a veterinarian to float the teeth on my daughter's horse. While at a barrel racing clinic, an equine dentist rode my daughter's horse, and he informed me there was something wrong in the horse's mouth. An equine dentist fixed the mare's teeth. The horse was more comfortable in the mouth and her performance improved.

I saved my money and went to equine dentistry school. It took me two years of saving before I could go. It was the best thing I ever did. I became a full-time equine dentist. I moved to Nevada. My career was going well. I was able to provide for my family and buy my dream home as an equine dentist.

After a high school rodeo, I was pulled over by a law enforcement agent. He asked me to get out of my truck. He explained to me that I was wanted on felony warrants. I did not know what was going on. He handcuffed me and put me in the back of his car while my children watched.

I did not know the law changed in Nevada. Because of that change, I was not allowed to practice equine dentistry. I was charged with practicing veterinary medicine without a license. I was facing eight felony counts.

I retained a lawyer. It cost me \$10,000 to fight the charges. I was able to get the charges dropped to a misdemeanor. Because of these events, I lost my dream home.

I decided not to quit. I continued to perform equine dentistry in the states where it was allowed. I continued my education and became IAED certified. I am a board member of the IAED.

The current law in Nevada creates a monopoly on equine dental care. The veterinarians use false fear tactics to protect their occupation. There needs to be change for the equine dentists' right to work and for horse owners' right to choose a qualified, certified equine dental professional.

The IAED certification is the best in the world. We complete 240 hours of training and perform on 100 horses in wet labs. We require a written and a practical exam in the certification process. The practical exam is a double blind. It is overseen by examiners who are highly trained in the equine dental

profession. Some of our examiners are veterinarians who are certified in equine dentistry. To pass the exam, one must score 80 percent or higher.

Our training certification is the highest standard for equine dentistry in the world. It is recognized in Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma and Utah.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

Cattle ranchers do not need a veterinarian to practice artificial insemination. Some states are requiring a veterinarian to supervise a farrier. I do not see a reason for that.

How long does it take to obtain an equine dental certification? What is the traditional schooling for equine dentists?

MR. ALLEN:

Our certification requires 240 hours as the minimum to complete the course.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

How long does it take to complete?

MR. RHODES:

Every school has a different structure.

The Texas Institute for Equine Dentistry has a two-week course followed by two months off. During those two months students are encouraged to do an internship with a master certified dentist or a veterinary dental specialist. It took me approximately 18 months to complete. In addition, I had to practice on 100 horses before I could take the practical exam.

The practical exam was given on 6 horses with an average score of 80 percent needed to pass. We were graded on 20 aspects of our work on a scale from 1 to 5. I took a written exam where I needed 85 percent to pass.

The Academy of Equine Dentistry in Idaho is similarly structured. They require students to take a head and neck anatomy class taught by a veterinarian. Their head and neck program is one of the best. In order to graduate, the students must pass the head and neck anatomy class.

The time it takes to obtain a certification depends on the individual. It varies on the skills of the students. Course completion ranges from 18 months to 3 years.

JENNEE RHODES:

I am in support of S.B. 156. I am a horse trainer and a coach. I have owned horses all my life. As a trainer, I have experienced differences in the quality of equine dental care between veterinarians and equine dentists. The majority of professional equestrians and training facilities choose equine dentists to perform dental work on their horses.

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (BVME) is concerned with protecting the public from equine dentists. I have seen problems caused by veterinarians in the mouths of horses. I have seen horses treated by veterinarians that are missing teeth due to opposing overgrown teeth. I have seen overgrown back molars gouge the roof of the horse's mouth. I have heard a veterinarian tell a horse owner that their animal is a "hard keeper" who cannot keep weight on. After that client had an equine dentist examine their horse and perform work, the horse gained weight.

A friend shared pictures of her horse after a veterinarian performed dental maintenance. The friend said it was a mystery as to why her horse continues to crack her large molars. Her horse broke a molar two or three years previously. It is terrible that this horse owner does not have the choice to hire an equine dentist. A professional can tell her why her horse's molars were cracking and correct the problem.

I have witnessed veterinarians performing teeth floating on horses for years. There is a difference between a veterinarian's work and an equine dentist's work. In all the years I have been working with horses, I have not seen a veterinarian check the occlusion on a horse before or after they floated the teeth. How does the veterinarian know if the horse's teeth touch after floating? How does the veterinarian know if the horse's bite has too much pressure causing the teeth to expire? I have not seen a veterinarian work on the horse's incisors or check the balance of the horse's bite.

For these reasons, many horse owners prefer equine dentists over veterinarians. They should be allowed to choose who to hire for their animals.

Veterinarians use the subject of sedation to scare the Committee into believing equine dentistry is something strictly for veterinarians to perform. Sedation is used regularly while shoeing horses. Sedation is given to stallion owners to sedate mares being bred to protect the stallion from being kicked or injured during the breeding process. Sedation is readily available and used for many reasons.

The horse industry is a close community. Word of mouth serves as the only advertisement horse professionals use to grow their business or to end it. It is a self-regulated industry. Horse owners are informed and capable of choosing service providers for their animals. We deserve the right to choose an equine dentist. We do not deserve the burden of paying a veterinarian to oversee the equine dentist we hire.

WILLIAM PROCESS:

I am in support of S.B. 156. I want the choice to hire the professional I choose to perform services on my horses. I do not bring my children to a family doctor for dental or eye checkups. Horses deserve an expert for their teeth.

I hold the "my horse, my choice" theory. We should have the option to hire a specially trained and certified expert versus hiring a costly veterinarian who does not have the IAED certification. Using an IAED expert allows my family to properly maintain our horses at a reduced cost with professional results. Many homes in Nevada have limited incomes. Many horses go untreated due to the cost. This bill will allow for more horses to obtain the care they need.

JENNY FIELD:

I am in support of S.B. 156. I agree with my friends in the horse field.

PATTI JESINOSKI:

I am in support of S.B. 156. In humans, each tooth is connected to an organ in the body. The health of the organ is dependent on the health of that tooth. Body health is dependent on proper dental care.

We do not go to a general practitioner to work on our teeth instead of a dentist. This is logical medical care for the animals.



MITCH STEWART:

I am in support of S.B. 156. I have been shoeing horses for seven years. Horse owners have the right to choose who can perform equine dentistry on their animals. Veterinarians cite sedation as a reason to outlaw equine dentistry. Veterinarians prescribe Xylazine and Detomidine for my clients to give to their horses when there may be a concern for my safety. Certified equine dentists are needed, and they serve a valuable role in the horse care industry.

RONDA GENTRY:

I am in support of S.B. 156. I compete with my horses in numerous events, as well as participate in the Reno Rodeo. My veterinarian has prescribed Xylazine to administer to my horses to calm them. In the Nevada Day Parade, I helped organize 100 horses and 100 riders. This would not have happened without the safety of sedation. It helps the horses to be safe from hurting themselves and from hurting others.

Horses are a part of our family. They eat every morning and every night before we do. We muck stalls, break ice and give them clean bedding to provide the best for them. I should have the right to provide them the best dental care possible. I should have the right to choose a certified equine dentist.

ABBY FIELD:

I am in support of S.B. 156. As a horse owner, I deserve the right to choose who performs care on my horses. I have assisted Mr. Rhodes in California, and I have seen the difference that dental care can make. There are many horses we see who have had their teeth floated by a veterinarian. The level of care and thoroughness is not close to what an equine dentist can provide. Mr. Rhodes was able to address the issues the horse was having. I have seen the work of a certified equine dentist improve the ability for the horse to intake and digest food. Having a trained and certified equine dentist is beneficial to a horse.

MR. LOPEZ:

We are neutral toward S.B. 156. The bill is a step in the right direction. We would be in support if section 5, subsection 9 of the bill was removed, which requires mandatory certification by the IAED.

This bill is better than the status quo. Licensing by default with mandatory certifications is what concerns us. This would not be the wild West. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) website lists the states that

do not require licensing or certification to perform teeth floating. Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Vermont exempt equine teeth floating from the practice of veterinary medicine. This allows non-veterinarians to perform the service without supervision. This is about the owners choosing who may perform teeth floating on their horses.

DAVE WUEST (Executive Secretary, State Board of Pharmacy):

We are neutral toward S.B. 156. A veterinarian may prescribe a drug to an owner. The owner may use that drug as they see fit. Federal and State law do not allow the transfer of that drug to a third party. If the Committee proceeds with this, consider allowing equine dentists to legally possess the drugs. The federal government will recognize that if it is included in the bill.

SENATOR HARDY:

How many states allow equine dentists to possess sedatives?

MR. WUEST:

I do not know. I can get an answer. The owner can own and possess the drugs and use them however they choose. A third party may not. There are people who are practitioners who are allowed to possess drugs.

SENATOR HARDY:

In previous legislation, we made exemptions for veterinarians relating to prescription drugs. Should we make an exemption for equine dentists as well?

MR. WUEST:

If the Committee chooses to make that exemption, it would be the path for the equine dentist to be allowed to possess the drugs. I am not saying that is a good or bad idea. It would be up to the Committee.

NEENA LAXALT (State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners):

We are in opposition of S.B. 156. The definition of veterinarian dentistry has been in the statute since 1989. As certain practices have developed in veterinarian technology, equine dentists were allowed to practice under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Since 2016, we have been working on regulations to address the issue of equine dentistry practitioners. Until the regulation took place in 2015, equine

dentistry was not allowed in Nevada unless you were a veterinarian or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

In the prepared statement ([Exhibit H](#)) from the BVME there is an explanation of the regulation and legislative progress toward addressing this issue.

JENNIFER PEDIGO (Executive Director, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners):

The BVME is opposed to S.B. 156. We considered public comment, comments from small businesses and medical standards. The BVME regarded the unsupervised practice as a public safety concern. If unsupervised registration was granted to unqualified individuals, the public would not be afforded a safe method of disease prevention and care for their animals.

Because of the importance of the health and lives of horses, equine dental care is not limited to teeth floating. We must consider more than the floating of teeth in order to sufficiently establish and maintain the health of the horse. This is true considering the expanding scope of equine dentistry and the developing medical treatments and tools available to owners and their horses.

The BVME felt regulations must include supervision so that a veterinarian can ascertain the occurrence of concurrent dental disease, cancers, mouth formation, fractures, infections or health conditions that may put the life and health of the animal at risk.

The danger to the public lies with incomplete or improper training. The lack of full medical training means individuals practicing without supervision are ignorant to the risks and dangers that exist.

The BVME recognizes a place for these practitioners. We made room for them, as a previously prohibited practice, in our regulation process. We support the practice, as long as it is supervised by veterinarians in order to reduce the risk to the public and their animals.

There were comments made in other testimony I would like to address. The AVMA tracks statistics and laws on equine dentistry in other states. There are 30 states that allow non-veterinarians to practice equine dentistry. Seven of those states do not require supervision; of those seven, four make allowances for manual tools, and the other three allow complete exemptions. In our

regulations, we made specifications for supervision for use of motorized tools as requested by the IAED members.

STEVE DAMONTE (Chair, State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners):  
We are in opposition of S.B. 156. I am an equine and large animal practitioner. I have been practicing in Nevada since 1992.

RONALD SANDOVAL (State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners):  
We are in opposition of S.B. 156. I am no longer a large animal practitioner. I was for eight years. Dental practitioners have a place in Nevada. There have been advancements in the profession and changes with the tools. Without oversight, there will be problems. Sedation is necessary and can be dangerous. There is a place for the veterinarian to oversee all the different types of anesthesia and the reactions to the anesthesia. I agree veterinarians who are not qualified or schooled in equine dentistry should not be practicing the art, but I believe they should oversee the health of the horse.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

Who is responsible for the regulations on equine dentistry? If we allow equine dentists to practice, does it mean that veterinarians can no longer perform those services?

MS. PEDIGO:

The regulation of veterinarian medicine is decided through the BVME. Our regulations and statutes overlap with other governing bodies. We work closely with the State Board of Pharmacy (BOP). The language in the bill does not take into account the issue brought up by Mr. Wuess regarding sedation. Under the regulations passed in February 2017, sedation would be done by a veterinarian. That mirrors regulations from the BOP.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

If sedation is performed by the veterinarian now, who would perform sedation if the bill was passed?

MS. PEDIGO:

The veterinarian can always perform sedation. If the bill was passed, there will be an issue with the BOP about possessing or controlling dangerous drugs by a third party.

The statute Mr. Rhodes referenced refers to full-time employees. A person spending two hours at someone's home does not constitute full-time employment. An equine practitioner would not be able to administer sedation. Veterinarians would sedate the horses.

This bill would allow equine practitioners to effectively practice unsupervised.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

If this bill passes, would equine dentists be able to administer sedation?

Ms. PEDIGO:

No, there would need to be a change with the BOP regulations in order for that to happen.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

If passed, what else will equine dentists be able to perform?

Ms. PEDIGO:

The definition in the bill exempts dentistry, as well as teeth floating. They could perform surgical extractions and dental surgery, as well as teeth floating, if the bill was passed. The bill does not specify teeth floating as the exemption; it specifies dentistry.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

If the language in the bill was changed, equine dentists would not be able to perform work other than teeth floating. If the animal needed more dental work, they could not proceed?

Ms. PEDIGO:

Correct, that would be the case.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

What are the rules in regard to other livestock, such as cattle, goats and llamas? Is this only for equines?

Ms. PEDIGO:

Livestock and alternative livestock are exempt.

DENNIS WILSON, D.V.M. (Nevada Veterinary Medical Association; Administrator, Animal Emergency and Specialty Center):

We are in opposition to S.B. 156. I will read from a prepared statement ([Exhibit I](#)).

MICHELLE PEACOCK, D.V.M. (Nevada Veterinary Medical Association):

We are opposed to S.B. 156. We talked about sedation for farrier work and sedation for calming horses. Sedation required to perform these dental procedures is profound.

The horses are sedated to the point of falling over. Their head is put into a stand so that they do not fall over and so their mouth can be opened. The dental gag that is placed in their mouth looks like a medieval torture device. It goes over their incisors and it is clicked open to allow visual inspection of the teeth. A horse that is not heavily sedated will not tolerate this. This is our main concern.

A veterinarian can examine the horse, sedate the horse and converse with the equine dentist. They decide on a treatment program. Equine dentists will point out issues and so will the veterinarian. This is the best option for the horse.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

Does the amount of sedation vary from horse to horse?

MS. PEACOCK:

Yes. It depends on the nature, size and age of the horse.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

When you give them a physical, how do you determine what drugs to give?

MS. PEACOCK:

At the physical, you can determine whether to give Novocain, Lidocaine or other drugs when you look into the horse's mouth.

We are familiar with human dentists. We cannot equate human dentists to equine dentists. Equine dental technicians are not trained on medical issues. They need oversight from a veterinarian.

CHAIR SPEARMAN:

Sedation is administered to horses for other reasons, such as parade performances. Does that require a license?

MS. PEACOCK:

Yes, to obtain and prescribe these medications requires a veterinary license, a Drug Enforcement Administration license and a controlled drug registration number from the BOP. If a veterinarian has a relationship with the horse owner and has examined the horse in the past, they can dispense medications in small quantities for a one time use on that horse.

CHAIR SPEARMAN:

They can be dispensed for a "horse" not "horses"?

MS. PEACOCK:

Yes, they can be dispensed for a singular horse.

CHAIR SPEARMAN:

If they have more than one horse, would there need to be more than one veterinarian?

MS. PEACOCK:

No, there would be an exam on each individual horse. There has to be a relationship between the veterinarian and the client in order to dispense these medications.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

If one owned or operated a horse facility, would there be a relationship that allows the person to have the medications in large quantities to utilize at the facility?

I know veterinarians who give more discretion for people who have 20 to 100 horses. They do not require every individual animal to get an exam. Are those veterinarians breaking the law, or are they using their discretion?

MS. PEACOCK:

I cannot answer that specifically. Veterinarians dispense medication to an owner; it is the owner's choice to use that medication. The veterinarian has to have a relationship with the horse owner.

SENATOR SETTELMAYER:

On the ranch, my veterinarian gives me medication for an animal that needs help birthing a calf. I can use that medication on a different animal that may have a similar problem. To my understanding, I am allowed to use the medication in this manner. If a person has a large number of horses, they should get the same discretion.

MR. WUESS:

You are correct. There is a provision for livestock that allows for the discretion you describe. Companion animals are not included in that provision.

RICHARD SIMMONDS:

I am opposed to S.B. 156. I will read from a prepared statement ([Exhibit J](#)).

SENATOR HANSEN:

Sedation is the primary issue for those opposing the bill. When a farrier is hired to shoe a horse, the owner has the ability to sedate the horse. Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Allen testified earlier about using sedation when they perform teeth floating on horses.

The owners of the horses are the people who supply and administer the medication for the procedure. There is no problem with sedation. It has been used without issue. There are no complaints from horse owners stating that a horse was overly sedated causing injury or death to the animal. There are no cases presented to the Committee today that say otherwise. The veterinarians are using hypothetical scenarios to make their case.

Equine dentists are trained in all forms of equine dentistry, including tooth extraction and mouth exams. They are trained to contact a veterinarian for serious issues that they cannot resolve.

The BVME said there may be a place for equine dentists and regulation was passed. They agreed that the equine dentist could do the work as long as there is a veterinarian supervising. What is the horse owner going to pay for having a veterinarian and an equine dentist present? That will cost \$500 to \$600 to treat a horse that is valued at \$1,500.

Excessive levels of regulation do not make sense.



The testimony from horse owners who paid veterinarians to perform teeth floating describe more problems with quality of service from veterinarians than from equine dentists. The people who are most experienced to do the job are the ones who are forced to have a veterinarian present to oversee them. It does not make sense.

This is a classic example of overregulation from boards overextending their authority. Farriers shoe their own horses. The AVMA is attempting to force farriers to have a veterinarian present when they shoe a horse. I bring that up to show how the escalation of regulation is expanding.

Work that cowboys have been doing for hundreds of years requires a veterinarian present. The veterinarians are recommending the horses' legs be X-rayed during horse shoeing. They will expand this so that soon nobody can do anything with their livestock. If this is so horrible for animals, why are horses the only animal we require this for? It does not make sense.

There are no issues with the sedation or the well-being of the horse with equine dentists. Horse owners love their horses as much as they love their kids. The last thing they will do is allow anyone to harm their animals. Horses are their world. From a consumer perspective, the folks here are more comfortable with equine dentists.

SENATOR ATKINSON:

Equine dentists have been performing teeth floating services for decades. If the issue is not sedation, what is the issue? Is the issue with the price?

SENATOR HANSEN:

The issue with the veterinarians supervising these services is about price. Equine dentists charge \$100 where a veterinarian charges \$250. Why regulate this when it is not about safety to people, safety to the animals or misuse of the medication? Why regulate this procedure when there are no problems with the practice the way it is? It is unnecessary.

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CHAIR SPEARMAN:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 156. The meeting is adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Jennifer Richardson,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Pat Spearman, Chair

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

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit / # of pages</b>		<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
	B	8		Attendance Roster
S.B. 208	C	2	Gary Landry / State Board of Cosmetology	Written Testimony
S.B. 119	D	1	Senator Yvanna D. Cancela	Teamsters Local 631, Proposed Amendments
S.B. 119	E	20	Fran Almaraz / Teamsters Local 631; Teamsters Local 986; International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 720	Photos
S.B. 156	F	2	Zachary Rhodes	Written Testimony
S.B. 156	G	18	Zachary Rhodes	IAED Controlled Substances
S.B. 156	H	7	Neena Laxalt / State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	Written Testimony
S.B. 156	I	1	Dennis R. Wilson / Nevada Veterinary Medical Association; Animal Emergency and Specialty Center	Written Testimony
S.B. 156	J	1	Richard Simmonds	Written Testimony