SENATE BILL NO. 408–COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 20, 2025

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to county hospitals and county hospital districts. (BDR 40-559)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets **[**~~omitted material~~**]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health care; revising provisions governing the employment and training of certain physicians by a county hospital or county hospital district; authorizing a county or district hospital to contract for the provision of certain services; authorizing a county or district hospital to form a separate organization for certain purposes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes a county or group of counties to establish a public hospital. (NRS 450.020) Existing law also authorizes a board of county commissioners to establish a county hospital district to operate a district hospital or otherwise provide the services of a hospital to the residents of this State. (NRS 450.590, 450.610, 450.630, 450.710) Existing law authorizes the governing body of a county hospital or a county hospital district to: (1) employ physicians, interns and dentists, on a full-time or part-time basis, and fix their compensations; and (2) control the admission of such physicians and interns to the staff of the hospital by promulgating appropriate rules, regulations and standards governing those appointments. (NRS 450.180, 450.640) Existing law further authorizes the governing body of a county hospital to institute and maintain training programs in the county hospital for resident physicians, interns and postgraduates that meet certain accreditation standards. (NRS 450.455) **Sections 1 and 3** of this bill remove interns from the list of persons that the governing body of a county hospital or county hospital district may employ, and instead, authorizes such a governing body to employ and control the admission of residents and fellows and fix their compensation. **Section 2** of this bill makes a conforming change to authorize a county hospital to institute and maintain training programs for fellows in addition to resident physicians. **Section 2** also updates the name of an accrediting organization for medical residencies.

Existing law authorizes a county or district hospital to enter into a contract to provide certain services in connection with or related to the operation of certain hospitals or necessary for the health and welfare of the general public. (NRS 450.800) **Section 3** specifies that such services include certain mental or behavioral health services performed in connection with or related to a crisis stabilization center, which is a hospital with an endorsement to provide such services. (NRS 449.0915) **Section 3** also authorizes a county or district hospital to form a separate organization to provide or contract for the provision of certain services.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 450.180 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.180 The board of hospital trustees or any hospital governing board appointed pursuant to NRS 450.175 may:

1. Appoint a chief executive officer and necessary assistants, and fix their compensations.

2. Employ physicians, ~~[interns]~~ ***including, without limitation, residents and fellows,*** and dentists, either full-time or part-time, as the board determines necessary, and fix their compensations.

3. Remove those appointees and employees.

4. Control the admission of physicians ***, including, without limitation, residents*** and ~~[interns]~~ ***fellows,*** to the staff by promulgating appropriate rules, regulations and standards governing those appointments.

5. Contract with individual physicians or private medical associations for the provision of certain medical services as may be required by the hospital.

Sec. 2. NRS 450.455 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.455 A board of hospital trustees may institute and maintain training programs in the county hospital for resident physicians, ~~[including interns]~~ ***fellows*** and postgraduates. Such programs must meet the standards for recognition by the American Medical Association ***, or its successor organization,*** and for accreditation by the ~~[Liaison Committee on]~~ ***Accreditation Council for*** Graduate Medical Education ~~[.]~~ ***, or its successor organization.***

Sec. 3. NRS 450.640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.640 The board of trustees may:

1. After the board is formed pursuant to the provisions of NRS 450.620 or 450.625, increase the number of members who serve on the board by appointing, as a voting member of the board, one physician who is the chief of staff of physicians for a district hospital. The term of office of a member who is appointed pursuant to this subsection is 2 years, commencing on the date of appointment by the board of trustees. A vacancy in the term of a member appointed pursuant to this subsection must be filled in the

same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

2. Appoint a chief executive officer and necessary assistants for each hospital, and fix the compensations of such persons.

3. Employ physicians, ***including, without limitation,*** surgeons ***, residents*** and ~~[interns,]~~ ***fellows,*** as the board determines necessary, and fix their compensation.

4. Remove such appointees and employees.

5. Remove persons who are appointed or employed pursuant to this section.

6. Control the admission of physicians, ***including, without limitation,*** surgeons ***, residents*** and ~~[interns]~~ ***fellows,*** to the staff by promulgating rules, regulations and standards governing such appointments.

Sec. 4. NRS 450.800 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450.800 1. In addition to having the powers conferred under chapter 277 of NRS, a county or district hospital may contract with a private hospital or other organization for emergency medical services, including the transportation of patients, or any other services performed in connection with or related to the operation of a hospital. The services may be performed by the parties to the contract or the parties may establish a separate organization for that purpose.

2. A county or district hospital may enter into a contract to provide ~~[services:]~~ ***or form a separate organization to provide or enter into a contract to provide:***

(a) ~~[For]~~ ***Crisis stabilization services or any other mental or behavioral health services performed in connection with a facility that has received or is seeking an endorsement as a crisis stabilization center pursuant to NRS 449.0915.***

(b) Other services for persons, whether or not admitted to the hospital, if those services are performed in connection with or related to the operation of the hospital.

~~[(b) Necessary]~~

(c) Other services necessary for the health and welfare of the general public.

3. As used in this section, "crisis stabilization services" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 449.0915.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

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