

Approved: 2-16-00
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on February 7, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Lake, Director, Board of Emergency Medical Services
Jason White, Kansas EMS Association

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing on: SB 508 – Emergency medical services board, attendants, grounds for disciplinary action

David Lake, Director, Board of Emergency Medical Services, testified before the Committee in support of **SB 508** which would amend current law concerning the reasons for which the EMS Board may deny, revoke, limit, modify, or suspend a certificate for an attendant. Mr. Lake noted that the bill would address the issue of EMS attendants who have been charged and found guilty of crimes in violation of the uniform controlled substances act, crimes against a person and crimes of a sexual nature. He also pointed out that the bill does recognize that individuals can and have been rehabilitated after conviction of these crimes and warrant the public trust and can be certified as noted in his written testimony. (Attachment 1) Concern was expressed during Committee discussion that background checks should be done when hiring EMS attendants, and the possibility exists of false statements being made by applicants when applying for EMS jobs.

Jason White, EMS Association, expressed his support for **SB 508**, and noted that his association supports language in the bill that would allow the Board to revoke or deny certification to attendants for conviction of specific misdemeanors as well as background checks for applicants.

There were no opponents to the bill.

Hearing on SB 509 – Emergency medical services board; powers and duties, attendants, instructors, coordinators and training

David Lake, Director, Board of Emergency Medical Services, testified in support of **SB 509** which would change the permit and certification renewal requirements for ambulance services, EMS attendants, instructor-coordinators and training officers. Mr. Lake noted that the bill would allow ambulance service permits to be valid for one year for a period determined by the EMS Board. The bill would also allow attendants, instructor-coordinators and training officers to renew their certificates for two years beginning with certificates renewed after January 1, 2001. The current re-certification fee of \$15.00 would increase to \$30.00, but would be for a period of two years as opposed to one year. Mr. Lake felt that the fiscal impact on the agency from receipts and expenditures would be minimal, if any, as noted in his written testimony. (See Attachment 1) Jason White, EMS Association, also expressed his support for the bill.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The Chair noted that **SB 508 and SB 509** are identical to **HB 2695 and HB 2696** which have had hearings in the House Health and Human Services Committee, and further action on the Senate bills would await the outcome of hearings on the two House bills.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Room 526-S, Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m. on February 7, 2000.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Steineger made a motion to approve the Committee minutes of January 31, February 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2000, seconded by Senator Hardenburger. The motion carried.

Briefing and Committee Discussion

Legislative Research staff briefed the Committee on the Food Services licensing laws in regard to church groups, etc, who are temporarily exempt from the law in order to sell food at local church socials, school carnivals, etc. It was suggested this type of exemption or a disclaimer could also apply to hair braiding at various gatherings or functions, and allow hair braiding to occur at a temporary location. The Chair directed the Revisor's staff to draft an amendment that would apply to **SB 513** for the Committee's consideration when the bill is worked.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2000.

State of Kansas
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Honorable Sandy Praeger, Chairperson

Testimony in support of SB508 and SB509
From
David Lake, Director
Board of Emergency Medical Services

- I. Welcome and Introduction
 - A. Thank You to Senator Salmans for introducing the bills
 - B. Thank You to this committee for consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the bills.
 - C. Thank You to representatives of emergency medical services from across the State for their support.

- II. Explanation and Description of proposed legislation

Senate Bills 508 and 509 were developed and proposed for adoption by the Board of Emergency Medical Services in response to a number of requests from attendants, administrators, and service directors across the state.

Senate Bill 508 addresses the issue of EMS attendants who have been charged and found guilty of crimes in violation of the uniform controlled substances act, crimes against a person and crimes of a sexual nature. To be more specific, crimes as specified in article 34 or 35 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated. Article 35 addresses crimes of deviant sexual behavior and Article 34 involves crimes of violence against persons. The Board is powerless when these crimes are "plea-bargained" down from a felony to a misdemeanor. This bill will give the Board the authority to investigate and **if warranted**: deny, modify, or revoke the offender's certification. This bill **does** recognize that individuals can and have been rehabilitated after conviction of these crimes and warrant the public trust and can be certified.

Senate Bill 509 is proposed to benefit not only attendants and services throughout the State but also the agency staff. The first part of the bill proposes two-year certification of attendants, instructor-coordinators, and training officers. At the present time, there are 10,200 attendants at five levels of certification expiring each year on December 31. Changing the certification period to two years will reduce mailing costs, staff time, and allow for more flexibility in scheduling duties. Not only would two-year certification apply to attendants but also instructor-coordinators and training officers. With two-year certification, the current requirement for annual continuing education would double as would the current annual fee for re-certification. If adopted, a method will be established to divide the total registry into two equal parts with one group re-certifying for one year and the other group re-certifying for two years in the first year of implementation.

(Continued on back.)

The second part of the bill deals with the annual renewal of ambulance service permits and re-licensure of vehicles. Current law requires this to be completed annually on a "calendar year" basis. This process must also be completed prior to December 31st as with attendant re-certification. The proposed bill will allow this to occur annually at "a time as prescribed by the board". The Board believes that earlier in the year, perhaps April or May, would be a better time for this to occur.

The affect of these two issues on the individual services and attendants as well as agency staff would be to spread an enormous amount of paperwork, data collection, verification, filing, and mailing over a more workable period of time.

The fiscal impact on the agency from receipts and expenditures will be minimal, if any. Two-year certification will take two years to fully implement and will bring in an additional amount of money the first year but thereafter, agency income will remain at the current level. At the current fee structure, there will be no dollar effect on the attendants, the current re-certification fee of \$15.00 will increase to \$30.00 but will be for a period of two years as opposed to one.

The Board begin discussing these measures in preparation of the FY2001 budget last June. It has been openly discussed at each Board and committee meeting and throughout the State. It has met with wide-spread approval by attendants as well as the Service Directors.

In closing, Thank You for the opportunity to offer this testimony. The Board respectfully asks for your approval and support of these two bills. I will be glad to address any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.