

Approved: 3-21-00
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 March 13, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Lake, Director, Emergency Medical Services Board

Others attending: See attached list

Hearing on HB 2696 - Emergency Medical Services Board, powers and duties, qualifications of attendants, instructors

David Lake, Director, Emergency Medical Services Board, testified before the Committee in support of **HB 2696** which would change the permit and certification renewal requirements for ambulance services, EMS attendants, instructor-coordinators and training officers. Mr. Lake offered an amendment that would allow the Emergency Medical Services Board to fix permits to operate an ambulance service not to exceed 18 months during the phase-in period going from one to two-year licenses as noted in his written testimony. (Attachment 1) During Committee discussion Mr. Lake pointed out that there are approximate 10,200 attendants at five levels of certification, 182 licensed ambulance services, 660 licensed vehicles within those 182 services, and five of them are aircraft. He also noted that 80% of the attendants are volunteers with some compensation, and 20% are full-time employees. It was also noted that another amendment needed to be adopted that would allow the EMS Board to prorate fees where applicable.

There were no opponents to the bill.

Action on HB 2696

Senator Salmans made a motion the Committee adopt the amendments that would add language to allow the EMS Board to fix permits to operate an ambulance service not to exceed 18 months during the phase-in period going from one to two-year licenses, and allow the EMS Board to prorate fees where applicable, seconded by Senator Hardenburger. The motion carried.

Senator Salmans made a motion that the Committee recommend **HB 2696 as amended** favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Hardenburger. The motion carried.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Senator Hardenburger made a motion to approve the Committee minutes of March 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2000, seconded by Senator Langworthy. The motion carried.

Adjournment

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

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2000.

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

Testimony in Support of HB2696
From
David Lake, Director
Board of Emergency Medical Services

- I. Welcome and Introduction
- A. Thank You to committee for consideration of this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony.
 - B. Thank You to EMS providers from across the state for their support.

II. Explanation and Description of proposed legislation

House Bill 2696 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 for attendants, instructor-coordinators, and training officers. At the present time, there are approximately 10,000 attendants at five levels of certification expiring 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 will two-year certification apply to attendants but also to those that are 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.

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, with the following amendment, will allow this to occur annually at a time as prescribed by the board that will be more user-friendly, both for the services as well as the board staff. Please consider this amendment: (b) A permit to operate an ambulance service shall be valid for ~~the calendar year for which it is issued one year as determined by the board~~ a term fixed by the board not to exceed 18 months and may be renewed upon payment of a permit fee in the amount fixed by the board pursuant to K.S.A. 65-6127, and amendments thereto.

The amendment addresses a concern expressed by the revisor's office as to the workability of the wording in Section 1(b). As worded, the proposal allows for the permit to be valid for "one year as determined by the board" and will lock the board into a January to December year since presently permits are scheduled to expire on December 31st.

The affect of these two issues on the individual services, attendants, and agency staff will 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 began discussing these issues 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 support and approval of these two bills. I will be glad to address any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.