

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 1:30 p.m. on March 16, 2011, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Long, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Steve Sutton, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services
Shane Pearson, Kansas State Firefighters Association
Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair called for approval of the Minutes for March 2, 2011, March 3, 2011, and March 7, 2011. Moved by Senator Kelsey, seconded by Senator Reitz. Motion passed.

The Chair opened the hearing on **SB 216—Act concerning emergency medical services.** This legislation would add requirements for a quality assurance and improvement program for ambulance services and staffing requirements for attendant or medical personnel for ambulance services and vehicles. The bill would also change the term “medical advisor” to “medical director.” It would implement an initiation date of December 31, 2011, to allow all attendants additional time to complete certification renewal cycles. In addition it would also add additional language for transition requirements for certain emergency medical technician classifications regulated by the Board. The Board would not be able to approve an application for an attendant's certificate unless the applicant has paid a fee required by the rules and regulations of the Board. Language would be added that allows the Board to consider disciplinary actions taken against licensees from other jurisdictions who are seeking certification in Kansas. In addition it would make some technical changes.

Steve Sutton, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, reminded the committee that last year SB 262 was introduced which was the initiation of the legislative process to formally begin the transition process to move Kansas EMS attendants from authorized activities to a Scope of Practice. In addition, changing the names of some of the attendant levels in Kansas to reflect national nomenclature, the bill allowed for enhancement of skills set to create ability to provide a higher level of care to Kansas citizens. **SB 216** represents a continuation of those changes necessary to support the transition (Attachment #1).

Shane Pearson, Kansas State Firefighters Association, shared with the Committee that several years ago, the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services established a work group to look at the different levels of EMS certification in Kansas. The intent of the work group was to give Technicians as much time as possible to transition through the new scope of practice. Unfortunately some of that language did not get included in the original bill. He hopes that **SB 216** will correct that deficiency and allow Technicians the ability to more efficiently serve the rural areas of Kansas who rely on volunteer Emergency Medical personnel to staff ambulances (Attachment #2).

Written testimony was submitted in favor of **SB 216** by the following:

Russell Walter, Burrton Consolidated Fire District #5 (Attachment #3)
David Stithem, Chair, Region I EMS (Attachment #4)
Jason Jenkins, Chief, Miami County (Attachment #5)
Lester E. Richardson, chairman, Medical Advisory Council (Attachment #6)
Sean Briggs, Region V EMS (Attachment #7)
Chy Miller, President, Kansas Emergency Medical Services Assoc. (Attachment #8)
David K. Fitzhugh, Ft. Hays State University (Attachment #9)
Bob Parker, Johnson County Community College (Attachment #10)
Ed Steinlage, Sabetha EMT (Attachment #11)

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 16, 2011, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

Jeffrey Landgraf, Kearney County EMS (Attachment #12 and #13)
J. D. Bloomer (Attachment #14)
Jim LeBaron, Hutchinson Community College (Attachment #15)
Conrad L. Olson, EMS Director, Seneca (Attachment #16)

Appearing on behalf of the Kansas Medical Society, Jerry Slaughter, who testified as neutral, shared with the Committee that they support the process because it will reduce complexity and confusion about roles and duties, and it has the potential to improve the quality of pre-hospital emergency medical care. However, last year's legislation added a very important concept to the EMS laws, the creation of a Medical Advisory Council (MAC) to advise and assist the EMS Board on issues having to do with medical standards and practices. This was important because it signaled a desire to have EMS operate under a more explicit "medical model", utilizing experienced EMS medical directors to help the EMS Board create a culture that promotes patient-focused, high quality, evidence-based clinical standards and practices in pre-hospital emergency medical care. The current language does not clearly say what the role of the MAC is, and what authority it has. Quality patient care is best served when the MAC members—each of whom is an experienced EMS physician medical director—is free to exercise his or her best independent medical judgment on the issues before the group (Attachment #17).

Senator Kelly asked Mr. Sutton if EMS was opposed to the amendment proposed by the Kansas Medical Society. Mr. Sutton answered in the affirmative wondering why you would empower a council to override a Board. The Chair requested both the Board of Emergency Medical Services and the Kansas Medical Society to come to an agreement by the next scheduled meeting on March 17, 2011.

There being no further discussion, the hearing on **SB 216** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.