

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

April 8, 1999 Hearing Room B

8:00 AM Tapes 80 - 82

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Bill Fisher, Chair

Sen. Frank Shields, Vice-Chair

Sen. Susan Castillo

Sen. Marilyn Shannon

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Sen. Verne Duncan

STAFF PRESENT:

Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Andrew Morris, Administrative Support

MEASURES HEARD:

SB 911 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 1096 Public Hearing

SB 1232 Public Hearing and Work Session

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 80, A		
003	Chair Fisher	Calls meeting to order at 8:14 AM and opens public hearing on SB 911.

SB 911 PUBLIC HEARING

012	Ed Patterson	Representing the Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. Testifies in support of SB 911. Gives a sectional analysis of the bill. States that SB 911 is not included in the Governor's budget. Comments on possible funding mechanisms.
088	Sen. Gene Timms	Senate District 30. Testifies in support of SB 911. States the measure would provide funding for the Office of Rural Health, and emergency services to rural areas.
114	Sen. Shannon	Introduces a proposed amendment to SB 911.
128	Sen. Timms	Responds that the proposed amendment could be considered in the Committee on Ways and Means.
134	Chair Fisher	Questions the funding percentages.
137	Sen. Timms	Responds he is unsure, but it is a minimal amount.
145	Chair Fisher	Relates percentage examples of the Ways and Means Committee. Questions the amount of money requested.
165	Patterson	Responds it would be difficult to calculate percentages. Asks the committee to identify the amount of money needed, then send the bill to Ways and Means. States that if fines are increased the percentages would increase.
188	Chair Fisher	Requests funding recommendations.
192	Patterson	Responds witnesses will testify on the amount of needed money.
200	Karen Whitaker	Director, Office of Rural Health, Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU). Presents testimony in support of SB 911 (EXHIBIT A). States that the majority of rural EMTs are volunteers. Comments that there is a lack of resources to purchase emergency medical equipment. Provides examples of needed equipment. Explains graphs in (EXHIBIT A). States that in counties identified as "frontier" the death rates are much higher than in urban areas.
300	Whitaker	States that \$1.6 million is needed for the biennium.
347	Chair Fisher	Questions if rural health has received adequate funding during the past two years.
354	Whitaker	Responds affirmatively, they have used money from OHSU for funding. Notes that reduced funding is a result of budget cuts.

354	Chair Fisher	Questions the Governor's projected budget.
361	Whitaker	Responds it is \$240,000 annually, which includes funding for staff and administrative services.
377	Chair Fisher	Asks about federal funds.
387	Whitaker	Responds that rural health has received \$58,000 in federal funds during the past year, which is a 3 to 1 match. States that the money falls under the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.
437	Jeffery Butler	Deputy Director, Area Health Education Center Programs (AHEC). Presents testimony in support of SB 911 (EXHIBIT B) . Comments on the educational aspect of SB 911. Outlines existing problems that need to be addressed.
TAPE 81, A		
000	Butler	Continues describing problems. Reviews the high EMT turnover rates.
048	Chair Fisher	States the program could develop into a job training program, which is not a direction the committee wants to go.
072	Butler	Responds in agreement with Chair Fisher. Notes that it is not the intention of this program to become a training opportunity. Offers a solution to the existing problems. Identifies the cost as \$1 to \$2 million per biennium.
117	Chair Fisher	States he would like to send a specific dollar amount to the Ways and Means Committee.
130	Butler	Responds that the \$2 million figure would be what is needed.
141	Tom Johnson	Assistant Administrator, Oregon Health Division. Testifies on SB 911 (EXHIBIT C) . States that many services operate on volunteers, and that the system needs infrastructure development. Provides funding figures of surrounding states.
229	Johnson	Comments that a data system is needed to improve services, dispatch, communication, and mutual aid agreements. States the collaborative effort between agencies has been positive.
264	Chair Fisher	Asks if the \$600,000 for the biennium is needed for EMSs.
270	Johnson	Responds affirmatively. States the intent for the division is to create a data system and education for EMTs. States a similar system exists for trauma,

		which has been very successful.
300	Patrick Hart	EMT-Paramedic and Blue Mountain Community College EMS Coordinator. Testifies in support of SB 911 (EXHIBIT D). Explains the associated costs in obtaining EMT licensure. Reiterates that most EMTs in rural areas are volunteers.
363	Chair Fisher	Questions continuing education requirement.
368	Hart	Responds that 25 hours is required every two years. States that most continuing education is done in-home. Comments on the burnout rate, and that the rural communities have limited hospital facilities.
431	Hart	Summarizes and comments that EMT departments are responsible for their own equipment.
TAPE 80, B		
011	Sen. Shannon	Relates a personal experience of EMT services received and thanks Hart for the work of the Hermiston EMTs.
018	Sen. Castillo	Relates a personal experience. Commends EMTs for services they provide.
030	Pete Kingsley	Paramedic, Mid-Columbia Mid-Center. Testifies in support of SB 911 (EXHIBIT E). Relates a personal experience regarding rural EMT departments. States that SB 911 will improve rural area services.
090	Kingsley	Comments on the successes of the EMT departments. Identifies educational needs for EMTs in rural areas, and the need for recruitment and retention.
141	Kingsley	States people leave the EMT service due to the lack of support.
170	Jon Jui, M.D.	Physician; EMT Director Multnomah County; Chair, State EMT Committee; Medical Director, US Forest Service, Region 6; Medical Director, State Police. Testifies in support of SB 911 (EXHIBIT F). States the bill provides an infrastructure, and an opportunity to improve local trauma centers.
232	Jui	States that SB 911 represents an opportunity to improve the rural EMS delivery system.
250	Sandy Griffin	Director, Oregon Poison Center. Presents (EXHIBIT G). Requests that the poison center to be included in SB 911. Reviews the reduced funding for the poison center.

309	Mary Herrick	Oregon Poison Center. Presents (EXHIBIT H) . Explains the role of the poison center. Provides examples of poison center emergency situations.
373	Herrick	Continues description of poison center services.
411	Griffin	States they are requesting \$400,000 for the biennium.
417	Sen. Shields	Asks what would happen if the money was not received.
419	Griffin	Responds they are vulnerable, and the next reduction would be to reduce staff who can answer the phones.
440	Herrick	States that each center receives approximately 5,200 calls per year.
450	Sen. Shields	Notes support of the bill.
TAPE 81, B		
000	Chair Fisher	Closes public hearing on SB 911 and opens public hearing on SB 1096.
<u>SB 1096 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
013	Sen. Veral Tarno	Senate District 24. Testifies in support of SB 1096. States that the health districts' current law is outdated and needs to be revised.
024	Chair Fisher	Closes public hearing on SB 1096 and opens work session on SB 911. Recommends sending letter of support for the ñ1 amendment to the Ways and Means Committee.
<u>SB 911 WORK SESSION</u>		
038	Sen. Shields	Relates a personal experience. States support for adoption of the ñ1 amendment in committee.
061	Chair Fisher	Responds that he will honor Sen. Timms request and not include the ñ1 amendment until the bill is heard in the Committee on Ways and Means.
074	Sen. Shields	Notes objections.
093	Chair Fisher	Repeats that Sen. Timms has requested that SB 911 be addressed by the Ways and Means Committee.

109	Sen. Shannon	MOTION: Moves SB 911 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation and BE REFERRED to the committee on Ways and Means.
		VOTE: 3-1 AYE: 3 - Castillo, Shannon, Fisher NAY: 1 - Shields EXCUSED: 1 - Duncan
	Chair Fisher	The motion CARRIES.
123	Chair Fisher	Comments on sending a letter of support for the ñ1 amendment to the Ways and Means Committee (EXHIBIT L).
131	Sen. Castillo	States support for the ñ1 amendment.
136	Sen. Shields	Provides vote explanation.
145	Chair Fisher	Notes support for the ñ1 amendment.
155	Chair Fisher	Closes work session on SB 911 and opens public hearing and work session on SB 1232.
<u>SB 1232 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
170	Jeff Watkins	Representing Oregon Society of Physician Assistants. Testifies in support of SB 1232 (EXHIBIT I). Provides background of SB 1232. States that the bill will allow for the reinstatement of licenses.
202	Sen. Castillo	Asks for clarification relating to lapsed licenses.
212	Watkins	Responds that some PAís or nurse practitioners let their license elapse because they do not perform x-rays anymore, but the bill applies to the PAís and nurse practitioners who kept up their license, and lost it due to decisions by the attorney generalís office.
220	Dennis Bruneau	Physicians Assistant. Testifies in support of SB 1232. States he is in a rural area, and discusses the use of x-rays in his clinic. Refers to the continuing education requirement for continued licensure.

280	Chair Fisher	Asks if the continuing education requirements are controlled.
285	Bruneau	Responds affirmatively.
303	Lianne Thompson	Executive Officer, Oregon Board of Radiologic Technology. Presents testimony on SB 1232 (EXHIBIT J). States the board supports the licensing requirement.
320	Bruneau	Notes that the bill does not address examination process. Discusses compromises that the stakeholders have agreed upon.
352	Chair Fisher	States support for SB 1232. Opens work session on SB 1232.
<u>SB 1232 WORK SESSION</u>		
370	Sen. Shields	MOTION: Moves SB 1232 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 3-0 AYE: 3 ñ Castillo, Shields, Fisher EXCUSED: 2 ñ Duncan, Shannon
	Chair Fisher	The motion CARRIES. SEN. CASTILLO will lead discussion on the floor.
380	Chair Fisher	Closes work session on SB 1232 and opens a public hearing on SB 1096.
<u>SB 1096 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
395	Patterson	Representing the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. Testifies in support of SB 1096 (EXHIBIT K). States the current law is outdated and needs to be updated.
408	Dan Field	Representing Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. Testifies in support of SB 1096. States there are 17 rural health districts in Oregon, and that the bill will allow districts to work collaboratively.
TAPE 82, A		

000	Field	Provides an analysis of SB 1096. Comments on proposed amendments which have been submitted to Legislative Counsel.
045	Bonnie Barron	Bay Area Hospital, Coos Bay. Testifies in support of SB 1096. Notes that rural health districts are supportive of SB 1096.
095	Chair Fisher	Asks if the bill allows a health district to service another district with permission.
098	Barron	Responds affirmatively.
112	Field	Provides examples of health districts servicing each other.
118	Chair Fisher	Asks if health districts are located throughout the state.
120	Field	Responds no, that it only applies to the most rural areas. States that the community forms a health district.
135	Chair Fisher	Closes public hearing on SB 1096 and adjourns the hearing at 10:21 AM.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Andrew Morris, Sandy Thiele-Cirka,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ SB 911, Written testimony, OHSU, Karen Whitaker, 11 pp

B ñ SB 911, Written testimony, OHSU, Jeffery Butler, 2 pp

C ñ SB 911, Written testimony, Oregon Health Division, Thomas Johnson, 3 pp

D ñ SB 911, Written testimony, Hermiston Fire and EMT, 1 p

E ñ SB 911, Written testimony, Paramedic, Pete Kingsley, 2 pp

F ñ SB 911, Written testimony, Multnomah County, Jon Jui, 2 pp

G ñ SB 911, Written testimony, Oregon Poison Center, Sandy Giffin, 2 pp

H ñ SB 911, Written testimony, Oregon Poison Center, Mary Herrick, 3 pp

I ñ SB 1232, Written testimony, Oregon Society of Physician Assistants, Jeff Watkins, 1 p

**J ñ SB 1232, Written testimony, Oregon Board of Radiologic Technology, Lianne
Thompson, 3 pp**

**K ñ SB 1096, Written testimony, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems,
Ed Patterson, 3 pp**

L ñ SB 911, Written letter, Sen. Bill Fisher, 2 pp