

**STATE OF NEVADA. BIENNIAL
REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD
OF HEALTH, FOR PERIOD
ENDING DECEMBER 21, 1912**

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State of Nevada. Biennial Report of the State board of health, for period ending December 31, 1912 by Various

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STATE OF NEVADA

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BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

For Period Ending December 31, 1912

S. L. LEE, M.D., Secretary



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

STATE PRINTING OFFICE

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JOE FARNSWORTH, SUPERINTENDENT

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,
CARSON CITY, NEVADA, January 13, 1913.

To His Excellency, TASKER L. ODDIE, Governor of the State of Nevada.

SIR: In compliance with law I herewith submit a report of the State Board of Health, the same being for the period from July 1, 1911, to December 31, 1912.

Respectfully,

S. L. LEE, M.D.,
Secretary of State Board of Health.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

W. H. HOOD, M.D., *President* Reno, Nevada
O. P. JOHNSTONE, M.D. Reno, Nevada
S. L. LEE, M.D., *Secretary* Carson City, Nevada

REPORT OF STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

THE VITAL STATISTICS LAW

An Act to create a State Board of Health, defining their duties, prescribing the manner of the appointments of its officers, fixing their compensation, making an appropriation for the support of said board, establishing County Boards of Health, requiring certain statements to be filed, defining certain misdemeanors and providing penalties therefor and other matters relating thereto.

Approved March 27, 1911, p. 332

The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. A State Board of Health is hereby created, consisting of a president, secretary and one other member.

The president and secretary shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of four years; said appointee shall have been engaged in the regular practice of medicine in the State of Nevada for a period of at least five years before being eligible to appointment on said Board of Health; the third member of the board shall be appointed by the Governor, and the president and secretary—the requirement as to the five years' practice shall not apply in his case.

SEC. 2. The State Board of Health shall meet at Carson City on the first Tuesday in January and the first Tuesday in July in each year, and at such other times as the president may deem advisable.

SEC. 3. The duties of the president are to preside over all meetings of the board, and to perform such other acts as may be fixed and determined by the State Board of Health. He shall receive the sum of \$20 per day for each day's session of the Board of Health, together with necessary traveling expenses.

SEC. 4. The secretary shall keep a record of all vital statistics, tabulate and issue semiannual bulletins and make out and file with the Governor a biennial report, showing in detail the work of the board. He shall carefully compile the reports of the various health officers of this State as hereinafter provided, keep the minutes of all meetings of the board, and attend to all correspondence in carrying out the provisions of this Act. He shall, when called upon by the local health officer in case of any epidemic, proceed immediately to such locality and render such assistance in his power to eradicate and prevent a recurrence of such epidemic when called upon so to do by the State Board of Health.

SEC. 5. The third member of the board shall attend all the semiannual meetings of the board, and such other meetings as may be called by the president, and consult and advise with the board whenever called upon so to do. He shall receive for each day's attendance at a meeting of the board the sum of \$20 and necessary traveling expenses.

SEC. 6. The local health officer in each county shall act as a collector of vital statistics and is empowered to appoint such deputy or deputies as may be necessary, with the approval of the Board of County

Commissioners. For collecting and compiling the vital statistics of the county he shall receive from the county a sum not less than \$25 per month, and the Board of County Commissioners are directed to allow a claim for this or for such greater sum as they may deem proper for the work performed; the deputies appointed by the local health officer, with the approval of the County Commissioners, shall be paid in the same manner, a sum not to exceed \$25 per month for registering and compiling the data prescribed by the State Board of Health and by this Act. The deputy health officers shall file with the local health officer monthly reports not later than the fifth day of each month, which said reports shall be compiled by the local health officer and forwarded to the secretary of the State Board of Health, not later than the tenth day of each month. He shall file a copy of said report with the County Recorder.

SEC. 7. The certificate of death that shall be used is of the United States standard form, as approved by the Bureau of the Census. The personal and statistical particulars shall be authenticated by the signature of the informant, who may be any competent person acquainted with the facts. The statement of facts relating to the disposition of the body shall be signed by the undertaker or person acting as such. The medical certificate shall be signed by the physician, if any, last in attendance on the deceased, who shall specify the time in attendance, the time he last saw the deceased alive, and the hour of the day at which death occurred. And he shall further state the cause of death, so as to show the course of disease or sequence of causes resulting in the death, giving first the name of the disease causing death (primary cause), and the contributory (secondary) cause, if any, and the duration of each. Indefinite and unsatisfactory terms, indicating only symptoms of disease or conditions resulting from disease, will not be held sufficient for issuing a burial or removal permit; and any certificate containing only such terms as defined by the State Board of Health shall be returned to the physician for correction and more definite statement. Causes of death, which may be the result of either disease or violence, shall be carefully defined; and if from violence, the means of injury shall be stated, and whether (probably) accidental, suicidal, or homicidal. And in deaths in hospitals, institutions, or of nonresidents, the physician shall furnish the information required under this head, and may state where, in his opinion, the disease was contracted.

SEC. 8. That in case of any death occurring without medical attendance, it shall be the duty of the undertaker to notify the local health officer of such death, and refer the case to him for immediate investigation and certification prior to issuing the permit; *provided*, where there is no qualified physician in attendance, and in such cases only, the local health officer is authorized to make the certificate and return from the statement of relatives or other persons having adequate knowledge of the facts; *provided, further*, that if the death was caused by unlawful or suspicious means, the local health officer shall then refer the case to the Coroner for investigation and certification. And any Coroner whose duty it is to hold an inquest on the body of any deceased person, and to make the certificate of death required for a burial permit, shall state in his certificate the name of the disease causing death, or if, from external causes (1) the means of death, and (2) whether (prob-

ably) accidental, suicidal or homicidal; and shall, in either case, furnish such information as may be required by the State Board of Health in order properly to classify the death.

SEC. 9. That the undertaker, or person acting as undertaker, shall be responsible for obtaining and filing the certificate of death with the local health officer, or his deputy, in the district in which the death occurred, and for securing a burial or removal permit, prior to any disposition of the body. He shall obtain the personal and statistical particulars required from the person best qualified to supply them, over the signature and address of his informant. He shall then present the certificate to the attending physician, if any, or to the health officer, or Coroner, for the medical certificate of the cause of death and other particulars necessary to complete the record, as specified in sections 7 and 8. And he shall then state the facts required relative to the date and place of burial, over his signature and with his address, and present the completed certificate to the local health officer, in order to obtain a permit for burial, removal or other disposition of the body. The undertaker shall deliver the burial permit to the sexton, or person in charge of the place of burial, before interring or otherwise disposing of the body; or shall attach the transit containing the registration removal permit to the box containing the corpse when shipped by any transportation company; said permit to accompany the corpse to its destination, where, if within the State of Nevada, it shall be delivered to the sexton or to any other person in charge of the place of burial.

SEC. 10. That if the interment or other disposition of the body is to be made within the State, the wording of the burial permit may be limited to a statement by the local health officer, and over his signature, that a satisfactory certificate of death having been filed with him, as required by law, permission is granted to inter, remove, or otherwise dispose of the deceased, stating the name, age, sex, cause of death, and other necessary details, upon the form prescribed by the State Board of Health.

SEC. 11. That no sexton or person in charge of any premises in which interments are made shall inter or permit the interment or other disposition of any body unless it is accompanied by a burial, removal or transit permit, as herein provided. And each sexton, or person in charge of any burial ground, shall endorse upon the permit the date of interment, over his signature and shall return all permits so endorsed to the local health officer of his district, within ten days from the date of interment, or within the time fixed by the local health officer, or by the State Board of Health. He shall also keep a record of all interments made in the premises under his charge, stating the name of the deceased person, place of death, date of burial, and name and address of undertaker; which record shall at all times be open to public inspection.

SEC. 12. That all births that occur in the State shall be immediately registered in the districts in which they occur, as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 13. That it shall be the duty of the attending physician or midwife to file a certificate of birth, properly and completely filled out, giving all the particulars required by this Act, with the local health officer, of the district in which the birth occurred, within ten days after the date of birth. And if there be no attending physician or midwife, then it shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child, householder or owner