

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of August 17, 2020

State Issues

Appropriations Committee Actions

On Thursday, both houses held their Appropriations Committee Suspense file hearings, which included some actions on several key health care bills. These bills are going to be set for a floor vote next week, before the legislative session ends on Monday, August 31.

SB 275 (Pan) was voted out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, but did get some amendments in Committee. The amendments are still not in print, but based on our understanding of what was adopted, the amendments are not likely to remove any opposition to the bill. This bill would mandate health care providers maintain a stockpile of PPE for use in state of emergencies and mandates that the state maintain their own stockpile for use by first responders and other public health officials. The bill has a price tag of several hundred million dollars that only counts the state's cost, but not the cost to health providers. This bill will likely go through at least one more round of amendments early next week before a final vote on the floor.

SB 758 (Portantino) regarding hospital seismic and disaster preparedness also passed out of Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is sponsored by the California Hospital Association, but received hostile amendments proposed by the California Nurses Association and the Service Employees International Union. As amended, the bill provides for a 2-year extension of the 2030 seismic compliance standards, and it eliminates the task force designed to explore alternative standards for hospitals to meet to ensure public safety during emergencies. Negotiations among the stakeholders are ongoing.

SB 977 (Monning), which grants additional authority to the Attorney General to oversee health care transactions passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee without any amendments. The bill has secured just enough votes each time to move forward; however, with no amendments to the bill after a great deal of amendments promised along the way, and time running out for "courtesy votes," the health care community will be working the bill to get it held on the Assembly Floor.

AB 890 (Wood), which allows for nurse practitioners in certain circumstances to provide care outside of the supervision of a physician, passed out of Senate Appropriations with amendments, but those amendments are not yet in print. As currently in print, the bill allows a certified nurse practitioner to practice independently after completing a three-year transition to practice, and with a minimum of three years practice experience in good standing according to standardized procedures or protocols with a physician.

Also of interest is **SB 793 (Hill)** which would ban the sale of most flavored tobacco products. This bill passed out of Assembly Appropriations with no further amendments. The tobacco companies are ramping up their public ad campaign against the bill, claiming that the bill would hurt people of color and airing alternative ads that criticize the bill for not being strong enough because it exempts hookah from the bill.

(more)

State Budget Update	<p>The Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6, which is set to hear any and all Budget Trailer bills that need to be passed by the end of session to adjust the budget passed by the Legislature in June, again postponed its hearing. With time running out, the hearing is now set for next Tuesday, August 25.</p> <p>The Newsom Administration made it clear over the weekend, however, that it was not interested in moving a substantive health budget trailer bill this year, which was planned to include broadened telehealth policy. The Department of Health Care Services and the Governor’s office believe the currently expanded access to telehealth they granted to providers due to the state of emergency back in March will continue at the federal level for some time, and the Administration wants more time to gather data and develop a comprehensive state telehealth strategy. We expect the large coalition of providers to work on this issue over the fall legislative recess. They will be prepared to advocate for state action should the federal authorization goes away and/or to move policy next session.</p>
Legislative Summary and Status	Attached is the most recent Alliance Legislative Summary and Status report on bills of interest to the Catholic health care ministry.
Federal Issues	
COVID Relief Stalemate	The stalemate over the next round of coronavirus relief remained and now Congress is on its August recess until after Labor Day. The end of the fiscal year is on September 30, which sets up another deadline for Congress and the White House to come to some agreement. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she may call on the House of Representative to return from its recess early, but that would be to vote on legislation prohibiting the U.S. Postal Service from making any changes to operations it had in place starting this year.

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Alliance of Catholic Health Care Legislative Summary and Status 8/21/2020

Access / Health Care Reform

[AB 4](#)

(Arambula D) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Location: 7/10/2019-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law requires that individuals under 19 years of age enrolled in restricted-scope Medi-Cal at the time the Director of Health Care Services makes a determination that systems have been programmed for implementation of these provisions to be enrolled in the full scope of Medi-Cal benefits, if otherwise eligible, pursuant to an eligibility and enrollment plan, which includes outreach strategies. Current law makes the effective date of enrollment for those individuals the same day that systems are operational to begin processing new applications pursuant to the director's determination, and requires the department to seek any necessary federal approvals to obtain federal financial participation for purposes of implementing the requirements. Current law requires that benefits for services under these provisions be provided with state-only funds only if federal financial participation is not available for those services. This bill would extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals of all ages, if otherwise eligible for those benefits, but for their immigration status, and would delete provisions delaying eligibility and enrollment until the director makes the determination as specified.

Position

Support

[SB 29](#)

(Durazo D) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Location: 1/3/2020-A. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/24/2020 #78 ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE - SENATE BILLS

Summary: Would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, and effective July 1, 2020, extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals who are 65 years of age or older, and who are otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status.

Position

Support

[SB 65](#)

(Pan D) Health care coverage: financial assistance.

Location: 1/23/2020-A. APPR.

Summary: Current law creates the California Health Benefit Exchange (the Exchange), also known as Covered California, for the purpose of facilitating the enrollment of qualified individuals and qualified small employers in qualified health plans as required under the PPACA. Until January 1, 2023, current law requires the Exchange, among other duties, to administer an individual market assistance program to provide assistance, including premium assistance subsidies, to program participants with household incomes at or below 600% of the federal poverty level. This bill would reduce premiums to zero for program participants with household incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level, and would specify the premium assistance subsidy amount for program participants with household incomes of 139% to 600%, inclusive, of the federal poverty level.

Position

Support

[SB 66](#)

(Atkins D) Medi-Cal: federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services.

Location: 9/15/2019-A. 2 YEAR

Summary: Current law provides that federally qualified health center (FQHC) services and rural health clinic (RHC) services, as defined, are covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program, to be reimbursed, to the extent that federal financial participation is obtained, to providers on a per-visit basis. "Visit" is defined as a face-to-face encounter between a patient of an FQHC or RHC and specified health care professionals, including a physician and marriage and family therapist. Under existing law, "physician," for these purposes, includes, but is not limited to, a physician and surgeon, an osteopath, and a podiatrist. This bill would authorize reimbursement for a maximum of 2 visits taking place on the same day at a single location if after the first visit the patient suffers illness or injury requiring additional diagnosis or treatment, or if the patient has a medical visit and a mental health visit or a dental visit, as defined.

Position

Support

[SB 175](#)

(Pan D) Health care coverage.

Location: 8/14/2020-A. DEAD

Summary: Current law requires a health care service plan that issues, sells, renews, or offers plan

contracts for health care coverage in the state to comply with the requirements of the PPACA, and any rules or regulations issued under the PPACA, that generally prohibit a health plan offering group or individual coverage from imposing lifetime or annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for a participant or beneficiary. Current law requires a plan to comply with those provisions to the extent required by federal law. This bill would delete the requirement that a plan comply with the prohibition on lifetime or annual limits to the extent required by federal law, and would instead prohibit an individual or group health care service plan contract from establishing lifetime or annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for an enrollee, thereby indefinitely extending the prohibitions on lifetime or annual limits, except as specified.

Position
Watch

Behavioral Health

[AB 910](#) **(Wood D) Medi-Cal: dispute resolution.**

Location: 8/14/2020-S. DEAD

Summary: Would require a county mental health plan and Medi-Cal managed care plan that are unable to resolve a dispute to submit a request for resolution to the State Department of Health Care Services. The bill would require the department to issue a written decision to the plans within 30 calendar days from receipt of the request by either the county mental health plan or the Medi-Cal plan. The bill would also prohibit the dispute from delaying the provision of medically necessary services, as specified.

Position
Watch

[AB 2015](#) **(Eggman D) Certification for intensive treatment: review hearing.**

Location: 8/14/2020-S. DEAD

Summary: Current law authorizes a peace officer or a professional designated by the county to take a person into custody for a period of up to 72 hours for assessment, evaluation, and crisis intervention, or placement for evaluation and treatment, when the person is a danger to self or others, or is gravely disabled, as a result of a mental health disorder. Current law also authorizes a court to order the evaluation of a person who is alleged to be a danger to self or others as a result of a mental disorder, or the evaluation of a criminal defendant who appears to be a danger to self or others, or to be gravely disabled, as a result of chronic alcoholism or the use of narcotics or restricted dangerous drugs. Current law requires that a certification review hearing be held, as specified, and governs the procedure for presenting evidence at the hearing. This bill would authorize the evidence presented in support of the certification decision to include information regarding the person's medical condition, as defined, and how that condition bears on certifying the person as a danger to themselves or to others or as gravely disabled. The bill would require the hearing officer to consider the information in the determination of probable cause.

Position
Watch

[AB 3242](#) **(Irwin D) Mental health: involuntary commitment.**

Location: 8/11/2020-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/24/2020 #106 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act authorizes the involuntary commitment and treatment of persons with specified mental health disorders for the protection of the persons so committed. Under the act, if a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, is a danger to others, or to themselves, or is gravely disabled, the person may, upon probable cause, be taken into custody for a period of up to 72 hours for assessment, evaluation, and crisis intervention, or placement for evaluation and treatment. Current law requires persons providing the evaluation services to be properly qualified professionals, and authorizes those professionals to provide telehealth evaluation services. Current law also provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for similar detention by specified licensed general acute care hospitals, licensed acute psychiatric hospitals, licensed professional staff at those hospitals, or any physician and surgeon providing emergency medical services in any department of those hospitals if various conditions are met. This bill would authorize an examination, assessment, or evaluation specified, required, or authorized by the above-mentioned provisions to be conducted using telehealth.

Position
Watch

[SB 855](#) **(Wiener D) Health coverage: mental health or substance use disorders.**

Location: 8/18/2020-A. SECOND READING

Calendar: 8/24/2020 #45 ASSEMBLY SECOND READING FILE -- SENATE BILLS

Summary: The California Mental Health Parity Act requires every health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after July 1, 2000, that provides hospital, medical, or surgical coverage to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of severe mental illnesses of a person of any age, and of serious emotional disturbances of a child under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions, as specified. Existing law requires those benefits to include, among other things, outpatient services, inpatient hospital services, partial hospital services, and prescription drugs, if the plan contract or policy includes coverage for prescription drugs. This bill would revise and recast those provisions, and would instead require a health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021, provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, as defined, under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions.

Position
Watch

Hospital Operations and Finance

[AB 1544](#) **(Gipson D) Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act.**

Location: 9/15/2019-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would establish within the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act until January 1, 2030, the Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act of 2019. The bill would authorize a local EMS agency to develop a community paramedicine or triage to alternate destination program, as defined, to provide specified community paramedicine services. The bill would require the authority to develop regulations to establish minimum standards for a program and would further require the Commission on Emergency Medical Services to review and approve those regulations.

Position
Watch

[AB 1611](#) **(Chiu D) Emergency hospital services: costs.**

Location: 7/10/2019-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Would require a health care service plan contract or insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2020, to provide that if an enrollee or insured receives covered services from a noncontracting hospital, the enrollee or insured is prohibited from paying more than the same cost sharing that the enrollee or insured would pay for the same covered services received from a contracting hospital. The bill would require a health care service plan or insurer to pay a noncontracting hospital for emergency services rendered to an enrollee or insured pursuant to a specified formula, would require a noncontracting hospital to bill, collect, and make refunds in a specified manner, and would provide a dispute resolution procedure if any party is dissatisfied with payment.

Position
Oppose Unless
Amend

[AB 2037](#) **(Wicks D) Health facilities: notices.**

Location: 8/20/2020-S. SECOND READING

Calendar: 8/24/2020 #70 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - SECOND READING FILE

Summary: Would require a hospital that provides emergency medical services to provide notice, as specified, at least 180 days before a planned reduction or elimination of the level of emergency medical services. The bill would require a health facility to provide at least 120 days' notice, as specified, prior to closing the health facility and at least 90 days prior to eliminating or relocating a supplemental service, except as specified. The bill would require the mandatory public notice to include specific notifications, including, among others, a continuous notice posted in a conspicuous location within the internet website of a newspaper of general circulation serving the local geographical area in which the hospital or health facility is located.

Position
Watch

[AB 2157](#) **(Wood D) Health care coverage: independent dispute resolution process.**

Location: 8/17/2020-S. THIRD READING

Calendar: 8/24/2020 #132 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Current law requires the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance to establish an independent dispute resolution process to resolve a claim dispute between a health care service plan or health insurer, as appropriate, and a noncontracting individual health professional, and sets forth requirements and guidelines for that process, including contracting with an

independent organization for the purpose of conducting the review process. Current law requires each department to establish uniform written procedures for the submission, receipt, processing, and resolution of these disputes, as specified. Existing law requires the independent organization, in deciding the dispute, to base its decision regarding the appropriate reimbursement on all relevant information. This bill would require the procedures established by each department to include a process for each party to submit into evidence information that will be kept confidential from the other party, in order to preserve the confidentiality of the source contract.

Position

Watch

[AB 2830](#) (Wood D) Health Care Payments Data Program.

Location: 8/14/2020-S. DEAD

Summary: Current law states the intent of the Legislature to establish the Health Care Cost Transparency Database to collect information on the cost of health care, and requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to convene a review committee to advise the office on the establishment and implementation of the database. Current law requires, subject to appropriation, the office to establish, implement, and administer the database by July 1, 2023. This bill would delete those provisions relative to the Health Care Cost Transparency Database and would instead require the office to establish the Health Care Payments Data Program to implement and administer the Health Care Payments Data System, which would include health care data submitted by health care service plans, health insurers, a city or county that offers self-insured or multiemployer-insured plans, and other specified mandatory and voluntary submitters.

Position

Watch

[SB 758](#) (Portantino D) Health and care facilities: disaster and seismic preparedness.

Location: 8/18/2020-A. SECOND READING

Calendar: 8/24/2020 #41 ASSEMBLY SECOND READING FILE -- SENATE BILLS

Summary: Current law generally requires the State Department of Public Health to license, regulate, and inspect health facilities, defined to include, among other facilities, a general acute care hospital and acute psychiatric hospital. Current law requires health facilities to be prepared for emergencies, including earthquakes, fires, and floods, as specified. This bill would enact the Health Care Delivery System Preparedness Act and require the department to appoint the members and convene a meeting of the Health Care Delivery System Preparedness Advisory Committee on or before January 1, 2021.

Position

Support

[SB 901](#) (Wilk R) Hospitals: seismic safety.

Location: 1/30/2020-S. RLS.

Summary: The Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act of 1983 establishes a program of seismic safety building standards for certain hospitals. Current law requires hospitals with buildings subject to a seismic compliance deadline of January 1, 2020, and that are seeking an extension for their buildings to submit an application to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development by April 1, 2019, subject to certain exceptions. Current law requires final seismic compliance be achieved by July 1, 2022, if the compliance is based on a replacement or retrofit plan, or by January 1, 2025, if the compliance is based on a rebuild plan. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Position

Watch

Not for Profit

[AB 1404](#) (Santiago D) Nonprofit sponsors: reporting obligations.

Location: 9/15/2019-S. 2 YEAR

Summary: The Nonprofit Corporation Law regulates the organization and operation of nonprofit public benefit corporations, nonprofit mutual benefit corporations, and nonprofit religious corporations, including, but not limited to, health care service plans. That law requires a nonprofit public benefit corporation to furnish annually to its members a report that includes the assets and liabilities of the corporation, revenue or receipts of the corporation, and the expenses or disbursements of the corporation. This bill would require a nonprofit sponsor to make specified annual disclosures publicly available by posting those disclosures on the nonprofit sponsor's public internet website in the same location where it posts copies of its annual report.

Position

Watch

[SB 977](#) (Monning D) Health care system consolidation: Attorney General approval and enforcement.
Location: 8/18/2020-A. SECOND READING
Calendar: 8/24/2020 #17 ASSEMBLY SECOND READING FILE -- SENATE BILLS
Summary: Current law requires any nonprofit corporation that operates or controls a health facility or other facility that provides similar health care to provide written notice to, and to obtain the written consent of, the Attorney General prior to entering into any agreement or transaction to sell, transfer, lease, exchange, option, convey, or otherwise dispose of the asset, or to transfer control, responsibility, or governance of the asset or operation, to a for-profit corporation or entity, to a mutual benefit corporation or entity, or to a nonprofit corporation, as specified. Current law authorizes the Attorney General to determine what information is required to be contained in the notice. This bill would require a health care system, as defined, private equity group, or hedge fund to provide written notice to, and obtain the written consent of, the Attorney General prior to a change of control, as defined, or an acquisition between the entity and a health care facility or provider, as those terms are defined, except as specified.

Position
Oppose

Social Determinants of Health

[AB 1845](#) (Rivas, Luz D) Homelessness: Office to End Homelessness.
Location: 8/20/2020-S. SECOND READING
Calendar: 8/24/2020 #25 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - SECOND READING FILE
Summary: Would create, within the Governor's office, the Office to End Homelessness, which would be administered by the Secretary on Homelessness appointed by the Governor. The bill would require that the office serve the Governor as the lead entity for ending homelessness in California and would task the office with coordinating homeless programs, services, data, and policies between federal, state, and local agencies, among other responsibilities. The bill would require the office to exercise various powers and duties, including, among others, making recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding new state policies, programs, and actions on homelessness.

Position
Support

[AB 1851](#) (Wicks D) Religious institution affiliated housing development projects: parking requirements.
Location: 8/14/2020-S. THIRD READING
Calendar: 8/24/2020 #118 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - THIRD READING FILE
Summary: Would prohibit a local agency from requiring the replacement of religious-use parking spaces that a developer of a religious institution affiliated housing development project proposes to eliminate as part of that housing development project. The bill would prohibit the number of religious-use parking spaces requested to be eliminated from exceeding 50% of the number that are available at the time the request is made. The bill would prohibit a local agency from requiring the curing of any preexisting deficit of the number of religious-use parking spaces as a condition of approval of a religious institution affiliated housing development project.

Position
Watch

[AB 2576](#) (Gloria D) Mental health.
Location: 8/14/2020-S. DEAD
Summary: Under the MHSA, funds are distributed to counties for local assistance, and must be spent for their authorized purpose within 3 years or revert to the state to be deposited into the fund to be reallocated to other counties for the purposes for which the unspent funds were initially allocated to the original county. The MHSA permits amendment by the Legislature by a 2/3 vote of each house if the amendment is consistent with, and furthers the intent of, the MHSA, and also permits the Legislature to clarify procedures and terms of the MHSA by majority vote. This bill would require a county to develop a plan for the utilization of the reallocated funds with the input of specified stakeholders and to conduct a local review process. The bill would require that consideration be given to using the reallocated funds to provide services to individuals with mental illness who are also experiencing homelessness or who are involved in the criminal justice system and to provide early intervention services to youth.

Position
Watch

[SB 899](#) (Wiener D) Planning and zoning: housing development: higher education institutions and religious institutions.
Location: 8/3/2020-A. APPR.

Summary: Would require that a housing development project be a use by right upon the request of an independent institution of higher education or religious institution that partners with a qualified developer on any land owned in fee simple by the applicant on or before January 1, 2020, if the development satisfies specified criteria. The bill would define various terms for these purposes. Among other things, the bill would require that 100% of the units, exclusive of manager units, in a housing development project eligible for approval as a use by right under these provisions be affordable to lower income households, except that 20% of the units may be for moderate-income households, provided that all the units are provided at affordable rent or affordable housing cost, as specified. The bill would authorize the development to include ancillary uses on the ground floor of the development, as specified.

Position
Watch

Workforce

[AB 890](#) (Wood D) Nurse practitioners: scope of practice: practice without standardized procedures.
Location: 8/20/2020-S. SECOND READING
Calendar: 8/24/2020 #16 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - SECOND READING FILE
Summary: Would establish the Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee to advise and give recommendations to the Board of Registered Nursing on matters relating to nurse practitioners. The bill would require the committee to provide recommendations or guidance to the board when the board is considering disciplinary action against a nurse practitioner. The bill would require the board, by regulation, to define minimum standards for a nurse practitioner to transition to practice independently. The bill would authorize a nurse practitioner who meets certain education, experience, and certification requirements to perform, in certain settings or organizations, specified functions without standardized procedures, including ordering, performing, and interpreting diagnostic procedures, certifying disability, and prescribing, administering, dispensing, and furnishing controlled substances.

Position
Support

[AB 1850](#) (Gonzalez D) Worker classification: employees and independent contractors.
Location: 8/14/2020-S. DEAD
Summary: Current law exempts specified occupations and business relationships from the application of the ABC test as specified. Current law, instead, provides that these exempt relationships are governed by the multifactor test previously adopted in the case of *S. G. Borello & Sons, Inc. v. Department of Industrial Relations* (1989) 48 Cal.3d 341. Current exemptions include a bona fide business-to-business contracting relationship, as defined, under the specified conditions. Under current law, the business-to-business exemption does not apply to an individual worker, as opposed to a business entity, who performs labor or services for a contracting business. This bill would delete that individual worker provision.

Position
Watch

[AB 2537](#) (Rodriguez D) Personal protective equipment: health care employees.
Location: 8/20/2020-S. SECOND READING
Calendar: 8/24/2020 #53 SENATE ASSEMBLY BILLS - SECOND READING FILE
Summary: Would require public and private employers of workers who provide direct patient care in a hospital setting to supply those employees with the personal protective equipment necessary to comply with the regulations described above, as specified. The bill would also require an employer to ensure that the employees use the personal protective equipment supplied to them. The bill would further require that an employer in this context maintain a supply of unexpired personal protective equipment that is new and not previously worn or used in an amount equal to 6 months of normal consumption and to provide an inventory of its stockpile to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health upon request. The bill would authorize the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each violation to maintain the required stockpile.

Position
Oppose

[SB 275](#) (Pan D) Health Care and Essential Workers Protection Act: personal protective equipment.
Location: 8/18/2020-A. SECOND READING
Calendar: 8/24/2020 #31 ASSEMBLY SECOND READING FILE -- SENATE BILLS
Summary: Current law establishes the State Department of Public Health to implement various programs throughout the state relating to public health, including licensing and regulating health facilities and control of infectious diseases. This bill, the Health Care and Essential Workers Protection

Act, would require the State Department of Public Health to establish a personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpile to ensure an adequate supply of PPE for health care workers and essential workers, as defined, and would require the stockpile to be at least sufficient for a 90-day pandemic or other health emergency. The bill would require the department to establish guidelines for the procurement of the PPE stockpile, taking into account, among other things, the amount of each type of PPE that would be required for all health care workers and essential workers in the state during the pandemic or other health emergency, which would represent the amount of PPE to be maintained in the stockpile.

Position

Oppose

Total Measures: 26

Total Tracking Forms: 26