

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week September 6, 2021

State Issues

End of Legislative Session

Today is the last day of the first year in the 2021-2022 Legislative Session. By midnight tonight both houses of the Legislature will recess and begin their Fall break (Interim Recess). While there is some speculation about an after-recall election special election, so far there seems to be little appetite for that. We do expect over the interim recess many informational hearings, including some covering key topics in health care, such as the Office of Care Affordability. Several bills of note are awaiting action in the Legislature today:

SB 380 (Eggman) originally sought to eliminate the sunset date of the **End-of-Life Option Act** and remove some patient protections included in the original bill. The bill was amended in Assembly Appropriations Committee to put back in a sunset date of January 1, 2031, but the bill still ended some patient protections and does not provide the needed transparency regarding implementation. *The bill is awaiting action on the Assembly Floor.*

SB 637 (Newman) mandates **data collection from hospitals related to staffing**, but concerns remain about the value of the data that is being requested and its burden to report. The bill continues to be opposed by the Alliance and the rest of the hospital community. We also are pleased to see that the Department of Finance has an Oppose position on the bill. We are hearing the author is having some trouble securing the votes needed to pass it, but there is still time. *The bill is awaiting action on the Assembly Floor.*

AB 311 (Hueso) was just amended and would **mandate that hospitals allow medical marijuana to be used by patients**. The language includes a direction to hospitals to treat medical marijuana, which is a federal Schedule 1 drug, as if it were a Schedule 2, 3, or 4. This puts hospitals at direct odds with federal law and jeopardizes the licenses of hospital pharmacies and pharmacy personnel. The bill easily cleared the Assembly, with only one no vote (Assembly Member James Ramos). *The bill is awaiting a concurrence vote on the Senate Floor today.* Work is being done to engage the Administration and the Board of Pharmacy regarding our concerns.

One bill of note, **AB 1204 (Wicks)**, which **requires hospitals to collect and report a new set of data points related to health equity**, passed through both houses this week and is on its way to the Governor. While reservations remain about the measure, we were pleased to see the bill amended to connect the data collection to the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and set an implementation deadline back to 2025. These amendments make the bill easier to implement.

Legislative Summary and Status

See the attached Alliance Legislative Summary and Status report on bills of interest to the Catholic health ministry.

(more)

Assembly Addition	<p>This week, a new Assembly Member was sworn in – Assembly Member Mia Bonta was sworn in to represent the 18th Assembly District, which includes a large portion of the city of Oakland and the cities of Alameda and San Leandro. The seat was previously held by her husband Rob Bonta, who was recently appointed to become the State Attorney General. Assembly Member Bonta – affectionately called the “Better Bonta” – had a career focusing on the education of underserved communities in Oakland and the East Bay. She is the CEO of a nonprofit called Oakland Promise, which directs a cradle-to-college and career preparation initiatives across Oakland public schools. She became President of the Alameda Unified School District Board in 2018. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Yale University in 1993 and an Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1996. She also received a J.D. from Yale University Law School in 1999.</p> <p>Women now make up nearly a third of the California Legislature — an all-time record. Thirty-nine (39) of the Legislature’s 120 members are women or 32.5%.</p>
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