

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of July 10, 2023

State Issues

<p>Legislative Summer Recess Begins</p>	<p>The Legislature has officially adjourned for its summer recess, and will return to Sacramento Monday, August 14. Over the break, members will be working in their Districts and taking some time off.</p> <p>This week was the deadline for bills to make it through their second policy hearing, where the Senate is hearing Assembly bills and vice versa. This is the time of year that can get a bit more tense between the houses with professional courtesy and courtesy votes seeming to take a pause. As an example, a bill dealing with human trafficking (SB 14, Grove) received a lot of attention after it failed to pass out of Assembly Public Safety Committee, only to have new Speaker Rivas and Governor Newsom express concern and interest in engaging in the process. After a little floor drama, the bill was ultimately re-heard in the Committee and received support to move the bill to the Appropriations Committee, where it will be taken up again after the break.</p>
<p>Key Bills Heard this Week</p>	<p>Several key health care bills were heard this week. Among them:</p> <p>SB 525 (Durazo) would set a new minimum wage for a very broad list of health care workers, including contractors and those out of state. The bill would set the minimum wage to \$21 in 2024 and \$25 in 2025. It will impact hospitals, dialysis clinics, community clinics, doctors' offices and nearly every other health care provider setting.</p> <p>We previously noted when the bill was heard on the Senate floor, Senator Allen had received a commitment from Senator Durazo to amend the bill to extend the implementation timeline to 2028, but those amendments have never come into print and were not discussed in the Assembly Labor Committee where it was heard this week. Sponsored by SEIU, the bill is opposed by the health care provider community, and interestingly the California Nurses Association (CNA). CNA acknowledges that nurses make more than the minimum wage and would not directly fall within the scope of the bill, but they are concerned their wages will get reduced as a result of their colleagues getting higher wages.</p> <p>The measure passed the Assembly Labor Committee, but several Legislators – led by Assembly Member Chris Ward – expressed a number of concerns with the bill. He mentioned his discomfort with CNA's opposition, and the negative impact on the fiscal health of the health care delivery system, particularly community clinics. The bill was moved to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for action in late August.</p> <p>AB 40 (Rodriguez) would mandate an ambulance patient offload time (APOT) standard, not to exceed 30 minutes 90% of the time, and require hospitals to develop an APOT rapid reduction plan. If the hospital does not meet the standard, additional reporting requirements are implemented, and the plan must be implemented. The bill is sponsored by the California Fire Fighters and opposed by hospitals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(more)</i></p>

Key Bills Heard this Week <i>(continued)</i>	The author's office was attempting to amend into the bill a new requirement to fine hospitals for lack of compliance with the new standard, but Chair of the Committee, Senator Susan Eggman, rejected that attempt. The bill passed out of the Senate Health Committee, but Senators Roth, Menjivar and Eggman all expressed concerns and encouraged the author to work with opponents over the break. The bill was moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee for action in late August.
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