

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 26, 2010  
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 2551  
AUTHOR: E. Hernandez  
RELATED BILLS: SB 615 (Oropeza, 2007)

**BILL SUMMARY: Pharmacy Technicians: Scholarship and Loan Repayment**

AB 2551 would establish the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program within the Health Professions Education Foundation of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to provide scholarships and repay education loans for pharmacy technicians who provide services in medically underserved areas. It would also establish the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Fund to implement the program. The Foundation could solicit funds from public and private sources and the program would only be implemented to the extent that sufficient funds were available to administer the program.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

This bill would have no fiscal impact upon the General Fund. Funding for the new program would be through donations and the program would only be implemented to the extent voluntary funding was sufficient to provide for the administration of the program. When providing background information on this bill, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development noted that a similar program, the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program, also relies on voluntary contributions and has never been implemented due to lack of funding.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- A similar program, the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program, which also relies on voluntary contributions, has never been implemented due to lack of funding.
- The Health Professions Education Foundation’s Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program within the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development already provides scholarships for individuals planning to pursue careers in allied health, including pharmacy technicians. Enrollees in a pharmacy technician curriculum are given priority for funding under the Program. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$4,000 per academic year. In exchange for the assistance, recipients commit to a one-year service obligation or 100 hours volunteer service practicing direct patient care in a medically underserved area of California. The program awards approximately 30 scholarships per year and over 500 scholarships to date.
- The Governor vetoed similar legislation, SB 615 (Oropeza, 2007), due to concerns about duplicative efforts with the Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program. This bill does not address these concerns.

Analyst/Principal (0561) T. Williams	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**

**AUTHOR**

**AMENDMENT DATE**

**BILL NUMBER**

E. Hernandez

April 26, 2010

AB 2551

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	
4140/Stwd Hth Pln	SO	No			-----	No Fiscal Impact	-----		0001
4140/Stwd Hth Pln	LA	No			-----	No Fiscal Impact	-----		0001