

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: American Federatin of State, County, and Municipal Employees

BILL NUMBER: AB 57
AUTHOR: C. Price
RELATED BILLS: AB 2244 (Price, 2008)

BILL SUMMARY: University of California Hospitals: Staffing

This bill would, beginning January 1, 2010, require the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop procedures for collecting and reviewing written staffing plans for University of California (UC) hospitals licensed to operate as a general acute care hospital, acute psychiatric hospital, or special hospital.

FISCAL SUMMARY

By requiring the DPH to review written staffing plans to gather data on the staffing of non-nursing classifications, this bill would increase the DPH's annual survey time for each of the five UC hospitals by approximately 30 hours, totaling an additional 150 hours, or \$10,000, annually.

The UC would incur minor, if any, costs as this bill would require UC hospitals to provide DPH with written staffing plans that have already been developed.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill.

Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations requires hospitals to maintain a patient classification system and a written staffing plan based on that system that minimally must meet the current licensed nurse-to-patient ratios in effect for the various types of patient care units.

This bill would require the DPH to collect and review the written staffing plans of UC hospitals for the purpose of evaluating non-nursing staff-to-patient ratios. However, this bill does not identify any criteria with respect to these reviews nor does it include a mechanism for evaluation.

The DPH's current practice when investigating complaints related to hospital staffing, including non-nurse personnel, includes an examination of the hospital's patient classification system and written staffing plan and, if necessary, the issuance of a deficiency notice for staffing.

Although the costs to comply with this bill's provisions are relatively minor, the DPH would need to redirect staff from other higher priority licensing and certification activities.

Analyst/Principal (0553) J. Kapoor Date Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat Date

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved Position Disapproved

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

C. Price

Original

AB 57

This bill is identical to AB 2244 (Price, 2008), which was vetoed by the Governor on the grounds that current law already requires hospitals to have written staffing plans for nursing staff and must determine the staffing needs for non-licensed classifications. In addition, the Governor's veto message state that targeting a requirement specifically at the five UC hospitals is both unnecessary and ineffective.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No	C	\$5	C	\$10	C	\$10	3098
6440/UC	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0993
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0993	University Funds--Unclassified								
3098	Licensing and Certification Prog Fd, PH								