

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/15/2012
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: California Hospital Association

BILL NUMBER: AB 510
AUTHOR: Lowenthal, Bonnie

BILL SUMMARY: Radiation Control: Health Facilities and Clinics

This bill, an urgency measure, would make technical and clarifying changes to recordkeeping and reporting requirements recently instituted for computed tomography (CT) scans. A CT scan is a diagnostic procedure that combines rotating X-rays and advanced computers to create detailed cross-sectional computer generated images of body parts and internal organs.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Public Health (DPH) already performs oversight activities for this program, so the bill would not result in any additional workload or cost to implement its provisions.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill.

Current law requires the DPH to license and regulate health facilities and clinics, and persons that use devices or equipment utilizing radioactive materials. The DPH is authorized to require registration and inspection of sources of ionizing radiation. Commencing July 1, 2012, a facility using a CT X-ray system will be required to record the dose of radiation on every CT study produced during a diagnostic CT examination, provided the CT system is capable of calculating and displaying the dose. Current law also requires the displayed dose of radiation be verified annually by a medical physicist to ensure the accuracy of the displayed dose unless the facility is accredited. Violations of these provisions are a crime.

Starting July 1, 2013, this bill would allow the accreditation of a CT X-ray system through a single accreditation survey that includes the CT service by the accrediting organization. Additionally, this bill would exempt the CT X-ray equipment from accreditation under specified circumstances.

According to the bill's sponsor, the bill clarifies existing reporting and recordkeeping standards at facilities administering CT exams and addresses technical issues related to implementation of the standards. The bill would exempt specified CT studies from being required to record the radiation dose, delete the exemption for accredited facilities and would authorize a facility that has an accredited machine to elect not to annually verify the displayed dose of radiation, as specified. The bill also would require the dose to be verified by a medical physicist for the facility's standard adult brain, adult abdomen, and pediatric brain protocols.

Analyst/Principal (0551) B.Nunes Date Program Budget Manager Ken DaRosa Date

Department Deputy Director Date

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

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

BILL NUMBER

Lowenthal, Bonnie

06/15/2012

AB 510

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year) (Dollars in Thousands)			Fund Code
				2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0075
<u>Fund Code</u> 0075		<u>Title</u> Radiation Control Fund					