

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 30, 2011
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: Equality California

BILL NUMBER: SB 416
AUTHOR: C. Kehoe

BILL SUMMARY: Health:Survey

This bill would direct the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to include in the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), by January 1, 2013, voluntary self-identification questions regarding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, domestic partnership status, and the gender of a spouse.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The DHCS does not anticipate any additional costs as a result of this bill. The DPH estimates that the cost for adding an additional question to the CHIS is approximately \$50,000 per fiscal year for expanded survey development, data collection, research, and testing. The University of California (UC) estimates costs to include additional items in the CHIS could range from \$154,000 to \$179,000 annually. The CHIS is funded by the Proposition 99 Unallocated Account for the DPH and through Reimbursements for the UC.

Additionally, the DPH estimates the cost to add at least three new questions to the BRFSS would be \$19,500 annually. The BRFSS is funded through a federal grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill. The Proposition 99 Unallocated Account can be used to offset General Fund in other state programs. Therefore, any additional appropriation against this fund would reduce the funding resources available for General Fund costs, if needed. The DHCS and UC both note that by adding mandated questions to these surveys, it would exempt these questions from the existing selection process used by the UC, the DPH, and the DHCS, and may re-prioritize the selection of questions added to the survey.

Currently, the CHIS questions are developed through ongoing discussions and multiple, topic-specific technical advisory workgroups that meet over several months. The DHCS, DPH, and UC work together to assess questions from past cycles, and recommend omissions, modifications, or additions according to current necessity. They also prioritize past and newly suggested questions and solicit input from various stakeholders. Mandating particular questions would allow an exemption from this rigorous process.

This CHIS is the nation's largest state health survey and is conducted every two years on a wide range of health topics, such as, asthma, diabetes, obesity, and immigrant health. The CHIS data gives a detailed picture of the health and health care needs of the state's large and diverse population. The CHIS telephone surveys are conducted in all 58 counties of California and participants in the CHIS are chosen at random. The survey provides statewide information on the overall population, including many racial and ethnic groups, and provides local-level information on most counties for health planning and important comparison purposes.

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

C. Kehoe

June 30, 2011

SB 416

The BRFSS is a state-based system of on-going telephone health surveys that collects information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access primarily related to chronic disease and injury. The BRFSS provides state-specific information about issues such as asthma, diabetes, health care access, alcohol use, hypertension, obesity, cancer screening, nutrition and physical activity, tobacco use, and other health concerns related to chronic disease.

Current law requires that in the usual course of reviewing and revising all public-use forms that refer to or use the terms spouse, husband, wife, father, mother, marriage, or marital status, that appropriate references to state-registered domestic partner, parent, or state-registered domestic partnership be included. Additionally, current law requires that domestic partners, former domestic partners, and surviving domestic partners have the same rights, protections, and benefits, and shall be subject to the same responsibilities, obligations, and duties under law as are granted to and imposed upon spouses, former spouses, and widows or widowers in a civil marriage.

This bill would require by January 1, 2013, the DPH and the DHCS, to collaborate with the Regents of the UC, to include specified information related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, domestic partnership status and the gender of a spouse into the CHIS. This bill also would require the DPH and the DHCS to collaborate with the state coordinator for the BRFSS to include specified information related to gender into the system.

According to the author's office, demographics relating to California's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population is not being collected in a consistent manner by the state or federal government. In the absence of such data, policymakers, businesses, and the public risk making decision based on myths and stereotypes about LGBT people. The availability of this data would provide much needed information to businesses, social service agencies, community organizations, researchers, the public, and others.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014 FC	2013-2014 FC		
4260/Hlth Care	SO	No			----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----			0001	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No	C	\$20	C	\$20	--	0890	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No	C	\$50	C	\$50	--	0236	
6450/UC	SO	No	C	\$154 - 179	C	\$154 - 179	--	0995	
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
0236	Unallocated Acct, Cig & Tob Pr Surtax								
0890	Trust Fund, Federal								
0995	Reimbursements								