

CHEAC Legislative Hot Sheet 2003 - #19

September 15, 2003

SUPPORT 1

AB 946/Berg - Authorizes cities, counties, or cities and counties to develop clean needle and syringe exchange projects.

LAST ACTION: Assembly concurred in Senate amendments (44-34)

STATUS: To Governor

SB 678/Ortiz - Appropriations bill for the CDC and HRSA bioterrorism preparedness grants.

LAST ACTION: Passed out as amended from Assembly Appropriations (23-0)

STATUS: Assembly Floor - Amended 8/28/03

SB 774/Vasconcellos – Authorizes a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription. Other provisions.

LAST ACTION: Passed out of Assembly (41-33)

STATUS: Senate concurred in Assembly amendments (21-10) - Enrolled and to Governor

SUPPORT 2

AB 472/Correa – Requires that federal funding received by the state for bioterrorism preparedness and emergency response is continuously appropriated to DHS during any fiscal year that the Budget Act is not enacted by July 1 of that year.

LAST ACTION: Passed out of Assembly Health (24-1) - 5/7 Heard in Assembly Appropriations - placed on suspense file

STATUS: Assembly Appropriations Committee - Heard, remains in committee

AB 988/Maze - Authorizes a credit against the personal income taxes for each taxable year beginning on or after 1/1/03, and before 1/1/08 in an amount either 20% of the amount received by a qualified medical care professional for treating Medi-Cal beneficiaries in a qualified county, or 10% of the salary received by a qualified medical care professional as an employee in either a qualified health center or a clinic operated by a federally recognized Indian tribe or the Indian Health Service.

LAST ACTION: Heard in Assembly Revenue & Taxation, placed on suspense file

STATUS: Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee - Heard, remains in committee

AB 1524/Richman - Changes the name of the Children's Health Initiative Matching Fund to the County Health Initiative Matching Fund. Would allow counties to draw down federal S-CHIP funds to provide coverage to parents of Healthy Families Children. Authorizes funding for adults in a fiscal year only if funds are not needed for the children's expansion program.

LAST ACTION: Passed out of Senate (27-11) - Assembly concurred in Senate amendments (76-1)

STATUS: To Governor

SB 101/Chesbro – Requires Knox-Keene health care service plans and disability insurance policies to provide coverage for the treatment of medically necessary substance related disorders on the same basis as they provide coverage for any other medical condition. Other provisions.

STATUS: Senate Insurance Committee

SB 142/Alpert – Creates the Medi-Cal to Healthy Families Accelerated Enrollment Program that would make children meeting specified criteria eligible for health, dental, and vision coverage under the Healthy Families Program. Other provisions.

LAST ACTION: Passed out of Senate Insurance (6-3)

STATUS: Senate Appropriations Committee

SUPPORT IF AMENDED

AB 373/Chu - Provides that, effective 7/1/04, a subscriber in HFP who selects or is assigned to a FQHC, rural health clinic, or primary care clinic shall be deemed to have been assigned directly to the primary care clinic and not to any individual provider performing services on behalf of these entities.

LAST ACTION: To Governor

STATUS: Signed by Governor, Chapter 139, Statutes of 2003

OPPOSE 1

AB 206/Richman – Implements the Emergency Health Powers Act.

LAST ACTION: Passed out of Assembly Health (16-4) - 5/21 Heard in Assembly Appropriations, placed on suspense file

STATUS: Assembly Appropriations Committee - Heard, remains in committee

AB 1200/Longville – Limits the helmet law to drivers and passengers who are 17 years of age or less.

STATUS: Assembly Transportation Committee - Heard, remains in committee

AB 1470/Vargas - Authorizes, in any county, the increase in IHSS wages, benefits, or both, by voter initiative to the same extent that these wages and benefits may be increased by the BOS under the IHSS program. Requires a voter initiative to only be placed on the ballot of a previously scheduled county election and specifies the events that would have to occur in order for the voter initiative to take place.

LAST ACTION: Passed out as amended from Senate Health & Human Services (8-2) - Amended 7/16/03

STATUS: Senate Appropriations Committee - Set for hearing 8/29 - not heard, remains on Suspense File

OPPOSE 2

SB 685/Hollingsworth - Exempts from safety helmet requirements a person who has on file with the DMV a certificate signed by a physician or surgeon or a licensed chiropractor substantiating a disability that renders the person unable to wear a safety helmet as required under existing law.

LAST ACTION: Failed Passage in Senate Transportation (6-7) - Reconsideration Granted

STATUS: Senate Transportation Committee

SPECIAL INTEREST BILLS

AB 30/Richman - Requires MRMIIB to expand HFP to provide coverage to employed childless adults who are uninsured and meet certain income criteria only if the program has been expanded to uninsured parents and caretakers of children in the program. Subject to approval of federal waiver and appropriation of state matching funds.

LAST ACTION: Passed out as amended from Senate Insurance (5-2) - Amended 7/8/03

STATUS: Senate Appropriations Committee - Set for hearing 8/29 - not heard, remains on Suspense File

AB 1716/Human Services Committee - Requires, for 2003-04 FY, that no Sales Tax Growth Account funds shall be allocated until the caseload portion of the base of each county's social services account in the county health and welfare trust fund is funded to the level of the 2001-02 fiscal year, and would require that funds to meet that requirement shall be allocated from the Sales Tax Account of the Local Revenue Fund. Intent language for certain legislative committees to develop recommendations on realignment by 4/1/04.

LAST ACTION: Assembly concurred in Senate amendments (79-0)

STATUS: To Governor

SB 2/Burton - Creates the State Health Purchasing Program, administered by MRMIB, that requires specified health benefits be provided directly by employers or the program. Requires MRMIB to arrange health plan coverage for certain employers, who would be required to pay a fee for employee health coverage. Requires employees and dependents of large employers be covered by 1/1/06, and requires employees of medium employers to be covered by 1/1/07. Small employers would be exempt. Other provisions

LAST ACTION: Conference Report to the desk from Committee

STATUS: Senate adopts Conference Report (25-15) - Assembly adopts Conference Report (46-32) - To Governor

SB 420/Vasconcellos - Requires DHS to establish and maintain a voluntary program for the issuance of id cards to qualified medical marijuana patients and establishes procedures under which a qualified patient with an id card may use marijuana for medical purposes. Specifies DHS' duties regarding the id cards and procedures, including developing related protocols and forms and establishing application and renewal fees for the program. Imposes various duties upon county health departments relating to the issuance of id cards.

LAST ACTION: Passed out of Assembly (42-32)

STATUS: Senate concurred in Assembly amendments (24-14) - To Governor

SB 431/Ortiz - Intent bill to establish the Department of Public Health (DPH), realign certain responsibilities between the DPH and DHS by transferring responsibility for the administration of specified programs to the DPH, provides that the new department shall be under the direction of the California Surgeon General and provides for the establishment of a public health board to provide public and expert involvement in the development of policies, regulations, and programs administered by DPH.

STATUS: Senate Rules Committee

SB 476/Florez - Allows Emergency Medical Services Agencies to maintain a reserve of only 15% in the physicians and hospital portions of their EMS fund. Requires each county to report to the Legislature on each April 15 (instead of January 1). Requires the administering officer to solicit input from physicians and hospitals to review payment distribution methodologies to ensure fair and timely payments. Additionally authorizes the reimbursement of funds remaining at the end of each fiscal year in excess of the specified reserve in the portion of the fund reimbursable to physicians and surgeons, under specified circumstances.

LAST ACTION: Assembly Floor - Amended 9/8/03 - Senate concurs in Assembly amendments

STATUS: To Governor

SB 635/Dunn - Revises the limitation for uncompensated ER physician services to specify that the payment (to the physician) will not be made through any private health insurance or health plan coverage. Eliminates requirement that reimbursement can only be made for services provided in the first 48 hours.

LAST ACTION: Withdrawn from Assembly Appropriations Committee

STATUS: Assembly Public Safety Committee

SB 767/Florez - Enacts the California Health Care Safety Net Act of 2003 that would set a minimum level of funding for specified health care programs, and would prohibit these programs from being included in any transfer of responsibility and funding from state government to local governments. Requires a hospital, as a condition of receiving funds allocated for emergency departments from public sources, to have a written MOU or other formal agreement between the hospital and nonprofit community health centers in its area that would require emergency departments to establish a process, including protocols, whereby an emergency department would refer non-emergency care patients to nonprofit health centers for preventive primary care services and nonprofit community health centers would refer inpatient care cases to hospitals. Requires DHS Director to establish a task force composed of reps from specified provider groups to assess whether other programs should be added to the programs included in the health care safety net.

STATUS: Senate Rules Committee

SB 858/Ortiz – Intent bill to establish the Department of Public Health and to realign some responsibilities

of DHS to the newly created department.

LAST ACTION: Passed out of Senate (37-0) - In Assembly

STATUS: Assembly Health Committee - Amended 7/29/03