

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of May 13, 2024

## State Issues

### Appropriations Deadline

This week was the Legislature deadline for fiscal bills to make it out of fiscal committees. That led to the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committee hearing their Suspense files – voting on bills to either continue to move through the legislative process or be held for the year. Many bills going through this process are amended; however, sometimes we won't know what those amendments are until they show up in print over the next few days. Of the 341 Senate bills voted on yesterday, nearly 75% passed, and of the 668 Assembly bills, 65% moved on. In total, 689 bills are headed for Floor votes next week, with a total of 320 (31.7%) held. The average percentage of bills held at this point in the process is about 25%, so we can see the impact the bad budget is having on policy bills. Several key health care bills were heard and voted on in their respective Appropriations Committees:

**AB 2200 (Kalra)** would create a single payer health care system in California – held in Committee.

**AB 1895 (Weber)** requires hospitals to provide notice to the State when their maternity ward is at risk of closure – passed to the floor with amendments to reduce the notification timeline from 12 months to 6 months.

**AB 2180 (Weber)** would require a health plan to apply amounts paid through various savings programs to the patient's cost-sharing requirement under the health plan – held in Committee.

**AB 2960 (Low)** would require hospitals and clinics to provide STD testing to certain patients every year – held in Committee.

**AB 3275 (Soria, Rivas)** would require prompt payment for certain health facilities – passed to the floor with author amendments to change reimbursement timelines to 15 days for all providers.

**AB 3129 (Wood)** increases the AG authority and oversight on health care transactions that include private equity firms – passed to the floor.

**SB 966 (Weiner)** creates requirements for licensure and state oversight for Pharmacy Benefit Managers – passed to the floor.

**SB 1432 (Caballero)**, which as amended, would provide a 3-year delay in the implementation of the 2030 hospital seismic standards, with the option for 5 more years at the discretion of HCAI – passed to the floor with amendments to further specify hospital and department requirements and delete provisions related to rural hospitals. *(more)*

<p>Appropriations Deadline <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>SB 1423 (Dahle)</b>, which would provide cost-based reimbursement for critical access hospitals – passed to the floor, with an amendment that implementation is contingent on an appropriation.</p> <p><b>SB 895 (Roth)</b> seeks to support the health care workforce pipeline by allowing Community Colleges to provide Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program – passed to floor with technical amendments.</p>
<p>State Budget Update</p>	<p>Both the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Health held hearings this week, providing an overview of the May Revise Budget. The Assembly meeting materials can be found <a href="#">here</a> and provide a detailed overview of important topics. The hearing provided a forum for Chair Dr. Akilah Weber, and Assembly Members Mia Bonta and Jim Wood to express their outrage at the proposed cuts the Governor has included in the May Revise.</p> <p>Dr. Weber focused her displeasure at the Administration’s plan to take the MCO money, that was set for providers in January, to backfill the State General Fund. Her comments made it clear that she felt that the Administration has been less than honest in their previous discussions on the MCO and is frustrated the Administration has no plan in place to provide access to patients. Dr. Wood commented that it feels like no one really cares about the Medi-Cal population any longer or the struggles providers have in caring for Medi-Cal patients.</p> <p>All items have been left open at this time. We are awaiting the report from the Legislative Analyst’s Office on the May Revise proposal – and we’re hearing their estimate of the deficit may be as high as \$50 billion – nearly double what the Governor has stated.</p>

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