

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 30, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 5, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 951

**Introduced by Assembly Member Florez
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Shelley)**

February 23, 2001

An act to add Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 1221) to Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to clinics.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 951, as amended, Florez. Clinics: interim license.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of clinics by the State Department of Health Services. When a clinic files an application for a license, existing law requires the department to conduct an investigation of the facts in the application and the clinic's compliance with statutory requirements for licensure.

Under existing law, the department also licenses and regulates health facilities. License applications for certain health facilities are processed by the centralized applications unit in the Licensing and Certification Division of the department.

This bill would ~~establish in the department's Licensing and Certification Program, the Central Applications Unit for Clinics. The bill would~~ require the *centralized applications* unit to review, *commencing July 1, 2002*, all new applications for nonprofit primary care clinics, nonprofit community health centers, nonprofit community clinics, and free clinics. The bill would require the Licensing and Certification ~~Program~~ *Division* to designate surveyors to specialize in clinic surveys and complaint investigation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) There are an estimated 7 million persons in California
- 4 without health insurance coverage.
- 5 (b) Many of these 7 million persons have no access to
- 6 preventive primary health care services due to their being no health
- 7 care facility in their communities.
- 8 (c) Nonprofit community health centers were created by the
- 9 federal and state governments to serve uninsured, medically
- 10 indigent communities, and establish clinic sites in these
- 11 communities.
- 12 (d) Nonprofit community health center corporations continue
- 13 to expand their clinic networks by establishing new clinic sites in
- 14 federally designated medically underserved areas, serving
- 15 medically underserved populations in health professional shortage
- 16 areas.
- 17 (e) The State Department of Health Services Licensing and
- 18 Certification Division is responsible for conduction licensing
- 19 reviews of clinic sites.
- 20 (f) It can take up to one year to conduct a licensing review of
- 21 a new clinic site, and the department can issue a six-month
- 22 temporary license that allows new clinic sites to operate 20 hours
- 23 per week.
- 24 SEC. 2. Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 1221) is added
- 25 to Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:
- 26



Article 2.5 Licensing of Clinics

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39

~~1221. There is in the State Department of Health Services the Central Applications Unit for Clinics in the Licensing and Certification Program.~~

~~1221.05.—~~

1221. For purposes of this article, “~~clinic~~” *the following definitions shall apply:*

(a) “*Centralized applications unit*” means the centralized applications unit in the Licensing and Certification Division of the State Department of Health Services, or a successor entity.

(b) “*Clinic*” means nonprofit primary care clinics, nonprofit community health centers, nonprofit community clinics, and free clinics.

~~1221.07.— On or before~~

1221.05. Commencing July 1, 2002, all new applications for licenses for clinics shall be reviewed by the ~~Central Applications Unit for Clinics~~ centralized applications unit.

1221.09. Commencing January 1, 2002, the ~~Central Applications Unit for Clinics~~ centralized applications unit shall work with organizations that are among and advocate on behalf of, clinics to streamline application forms and clarify information needed to qualify as completed.

1221.11. Commencing January 1, 2002, a toll free telephone number shall be provided for applicants to verify receipt of their application by the Licensing and Certification ~~Program~~ Division.

1221.13. All new applications submitted to the ~~Central Applications Unit for Clinics~~ centralized applications unit shall be reviewed within two weeks for completeness. The ~~Central Applications Unit for Clinics~~ centralized applications unit shall resolve minor issues directly with the applicant.

1221.15. (a) Commencing January 1, 2002, the Licensing and Certification Program shall ~~designate two surveyors in each~~ and Certification Division shall designate at least one surveyor in each of the four regions to specialize in clinic surveys and complaint investigations. The program shall cross-train additional staff in this specialty.

(b) Commencing January 1, 2002, all completed packages forwarded by the ~~Central Applications Unit for Clinics~~ centralized



1 *applications unit* to the regional clinic specialists shall be
2 scheduled for survey within 30 days of receipt.

3 1221.17. The Licensing and Certification Program training
4 unit shall work with organizations that are among and advocate on
5 behalf of clinics and other stakeholders to develop a training
6 curriculum on clinic specialization, including the special needs of
7 rural clinics.

8 ~~1221.19. Commencing January 1, 2002, the Licensing and~~
9 ~~Certification Program shall assign a clinic contact to the Central~~
10 ~~Applications Unit for Clinics.~~

11 ~~1221.21.~~
12 1221.19. The ~~Central Applications Unit for Clinics~~
13 *centralized applications unit* and regional offices shall be *routinely*
14 reviewed by the department ~~annually~~ beginning January 31, 2003,
15 to determine if applications for clinic licenses are processed in a
16 timely and effective manner.

