

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 657

Introduced by Assembly Member Hernandez

February 25, 2009

An act to add Section 127162 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 657, as introduced, Hernandez. Health professions workforce: master plan.

Existing law requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to take various actions related to statewide health planning and the development of policies to address health care issues in California.

This bill would require the office, in collaboration with the California Workforce Investment Board, to establish the Health Professions Workforce Task Force, comprised of specified members, to assist in the development of a health professions workforce master plan for the state, and would prescribe the functions and duties of the task force in that regard. The bill would require the task force to submit to the office recommendations for a statewide health professions workforce master plan.

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 the following:

1 (a) In order for California to remain healthy, prosperous, and
2 globally competitive, the state needs to have a skilled health
3 professions workforce.

4 (b) Demographic trends and health care reimbursement
5 structures are increasing gaps between health professions workforce
6 supply and demand, as seen in the shortages of primary care
7 providers.

8 (c) California's population is aging, growing, and becoming
9 increasingly more diverse. California's workforce of health
10 professionals has not reflected these changes and is ill-equipped
11 to reduce new pressures on the health care system.

12 (d) Developing California's workforce so that it better represents
13 and serves its consumer population will help to mitigate increasing
14 health care costs.

15 (e) California faces a dramatic and pressing challenge related
16 to the supply and distribution of health care professionals. In
17 addition to urban areas, rural areas face ongoing challenges to
18 recruitment and retention.

19 (f) There are existing statewide efforts to address these problems,
20 which include, but are not limited to, the California Institute for
21 Nursing and Health Care's Master Plan for the California Nursing
22 Workforce, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Five-Year
23 Workforce Education and Training Development Plan, the creation
24 of a health care workforce and educational clearinghouse within
25 the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development,
26 publication of the report entitled "Connecting the Dots: California
27 Initiative to Increase Health Workforce Diversity" by the California
28 Health Professional Consortium, and others. However, there is no
29 coordinated plan of action effort to develop the state's health
30 professions workforce.

31 (g) A comprehensive approach to health professions workforce
32 development is needed to ensure that the state has the optimal mix
33 of culturally competent health professions workers to address
34 health needs in a cost-effective manner.

35 (h) To prepare the highly skilled workforce necessary, to keep
36 California's economy competitive, to maintain the income and
37 quality of life for California residents, and to increase tax revenues,
38 the following issues must be addressed:

39 (1) A comprehensive public and private collaboration to develop
40 California's health professions workforce.

(2) A state-level effort involving multiple health professions, business and labor, educational institutions including primary, secondary, and postsecondary institutions, state government workforce boards, regional leadership, consumers, and other stakeholders. These groups should work together to forecast health professions workforce demand and plan comprehensive pathways to support multiple target groups.

(3) Health data collection and reporting on a continuous basis.

SEC. 2. Section 127162 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

127162. (a) The office shall, in collaboration with the California Workforce Investment Board and based on information provided by the health care workforce clearinghouse created by Section 128050, establish the Health Professions Workforce Task Force to assist in the development of a health professions workforce master plan for the state. The task force shall be comprised of the following members from both rural and urban areas:

(1) Two members representing the Legislature, with one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and one member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(2) At the discretion of the Regents of the University of California, a member representing, and appointed by, the Regents of the University of California.

(3) A member representing the California State University, as appointed by the Governor.

(4) A member representing the California Community Colleges, as appointed by the Governor.

(5) A member representing the State Department of Education, as appointed by the Governor.

(6) A member responsible for leading a health sciences program in a school district, drawn from a pool of candidates selected by the Superintendent, as appointed by the Governor.

(7) Three members representing key stakeholders from labor and the health care industry, as appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(8) Three members representing the health care industry in the state, as appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(9) Three members representing community-based organizations in the state, as appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

1 (10) Three members representing multiple health professions,
2 including Allied Health, as appointed by the Speaker of the
3 Assembly.

4 (11) A member of the California Workforce Investment Board
5 and a member of a regional workforce investment board, as
6 appointed by the Governor.

7 (b) Total membership of the task force shall be not more than
8 21 people.

9 (c) Membership on the task force shall be voluntary and without
10 compensation.

11 (d) The task force shall assist the office in the development of
12 a health professions workforce master plan, and shall meet no later
13 than October 31, 2010, to do all of the following:

14 (1) Report, assess impact, and review capacity and effectiveness
15 of existing state and private programs to leverage funding resources
16 and form new partnerships, foster shared learning, identify best
17 practices, and minimize duplication of efforts.

18 (2) Review local workforce investment plans and assess progress
19 in meeting current health professions workforce needs.

20 (3) Identify education and employment trends in the health
21 professions.

22 (4) Identify the top 10 health professions with the highest
23 demand and develop a plan to meet that demand.

24 (5) Recommend state policies needed to address the issues of
25 health professions workforce shortage and distribution.

26 (6) Compile, assess, and align with other strategic plans for
27 developing California's workforce.

28 (e) The task force shall meet no less than three times per year.

29 (f) Not later than October 31, 2013, the task force shall submit
30 a completed report to the office with recommendations for
31 developing a health professions workforce master plan.

32 (g) The office shall act as the lead in coordinating the task force.

33 (h) The office shall seek and accept funds from the federal
34 government and private entities to support the activities of the task
35 force.