

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 3, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 4, 2009

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 112**

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**Introduced by Senator Oropeza  
(Coauthor: Senator Wyland)**

January 29, 2009

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An act to amend Sections 1247.2, 1247.4, 1247.6, 1247.63, 1247.64, and 1247.8 of, to add Section 1247.61 to, and to add and repeal Section 1247.62 of, the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 112, as amended, Oropeza. Hemodialysis technicians.

Existing federal law sets forth certain requirements that dialysis facilities must meet in order to be certified under the Medicare Program, including a requirement that patient care dialysis technicians at those facilities complete a specified training program, have a high school diploma or equivalency, be certified under a state or national certification program, and meet all applicable state requirements, as specified.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various clinical laboratory personnel and makes a violation of those provisions a crime. Within that law, the Hemodialysis Technician Training Act prohibits a person from providing services as a hemodialysis technician without being certified by the State Department of Public Health as meeting certain requirements, as specified.

This bill would revise those requirements and prohibit a person from providing services as a hemodialysis technician without being certified by the department as having a high school diploma or equivalency or 4 years of specified work experience, successfully completing a training program meeting specified requirements, and passing a standardized test, certified by faculty of the University of California *and approved by the department*, as specified, or passing an examination offered by a certification program approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as specified. The bill would require technicians certified by the department as of the bill's operative date to meet those requirements by April 15, 2010, as specified. The bill would make other conforming and technical, nonsubstantive changes.

By changing the definition of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

This bill would also declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
- 2 the following:
- 3 (a) In April 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
- 4 Services (CMS) issued final regulations, the Conditions for
- 5 Coverage of End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities (Conditions for
- 6 Coverage), at Part 494 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal
- 7 Regulations, establishing conditions that dialysis facilities must
- 8 meet to be certified under the Medicare Program.
- 9 (b) The Conditions for Coverage require hemodialysis
- 10 technicians providing services at dialysis facilities to be certified
- 11 under a state certification program or a national commercially
- 12 available certification program by a specified date.
- 13 (c) The Conditions for Coverage further require hemodialysis
- 14 technicians providing services at dialysis facilities to, among other

1 things, have a high school diploma or equivalency and have  
2 completed a specified training program.

3 (d) More than 5,000 persons provide services as state-certified  
4 hemodialysis technicians in California.

5 (e) Only three national commercially available certification  
6 programs have been approved by CMS.

7 (f) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to revise the  
8 Hemodialysis Technician Training Act to ensure that hemodialysis  
9 technicians meet the requirements of the Conditions for Coverage  
10 so that dialysis facilities in this state may continue to employ those  
11 technicians.

12 (g) It is the further intent of the Legislature that the revisions  
13 to the Hemodialysis Technician Training Act *made* by this act  
14 shall be implemented without the adoption of additional regulations  
15 by the department.

16 SEC. 2. Section 1247.2 of the Business and Professions Code  
17 is amended to read:

18 1247.2. For the purpose of this article, the following terms  
19 have the following meaning:

20 (a) “Immediate supervision” means supervision of dialysis  
21 treatment in the same room in which the dialysis treatment is being  
22 performed.

23 (b) “Department” means the State Department of Public Health.

24 (c) “Hemodialysis technician” means an unlicensed health care  
25 provider who is employed by a hemodialysis clinic or unit for the  
26 purpose of participating in the direct treatment of patients  
27 undergoing hemodialysis.

28 (d) “Standardized test” means an examination certified by  
29 faculty of the University of California to validly and reliably  
30 measure the knowledge required to demonstrate competency in  
31 the areas being tested.

32 SEC. 3. Section 1247.4 of the Business and Professions Code  
33 is amended to read:

34 1247.4. The department ~~shall~~ *may* adopt regulations it deems  
35 necessary to implement this article.

36 SEC. 4. Section 1247.6 of the Business and Professions Code  
37 is amended to read:

38 1247.6. (a) Except during training under immediate  
39 supervision, and except as provided in Section 1247.62, no person  
40 shall provide services as a hemodialysis technician without being

1 certified by the department as a Certified Hemodialysis Technician  
2 (CHT).

3 (b) This article does not apply to home dialysis patients, or  
4 patient helpers not employed by the licensed facility, who have  
5 undergone a home dialysis training program operated by a licensed  
6 clinic or hospital as defined in Sections 1204 and 1250 of the  
7 Health and Safety Code and have been certified by the medical  
8 director of the facility as being competent to perform home dialysis  
9 treatment.

10 SEC. 5. Section 1247.61 is added to the Business and  
11 Professions Code, to read:

12 1247.61. To be certified by the department as a Certified  
13 Hemodialysis Technician (CHT), a person shall meet all of the  
14 following requirements:

15 (a) Have a high school diploma or equivalency, or have greater  
16 than four years of work experience in dialysis as of October 14,  
17 2008.

18 (b) Have successfully completed a training program that is  
19 approved by the medical director and governing body of a  
20 hemodialysis clinic or unit, under the direction of a registered  
21 nurse, focused on the operation of kidney dialysis equipment and  
22 machines, providing direct patient care, and communication and  
23 interpersonal skills, including patient sensitivity training and care  
24 of difficult patients. For purposes of this subdivision, a person  
25 “successfully completes a training program” if he or she completes  
26 all didactic portions of the program and demonstrates competency  
27 in the knowledge and skills provided by the program.

28 (1) The training program shall include all of the following  
29 subjects:

30 (A) Principles of dialysis.

31 (B) Care of patients with kidney failure, including interpersonal  
32 skills.

33 (C) Dialysis procedures and documentation, including initiation,  
34 proper cannulation techniques, monitoring, and termination of  
35 dialysis.

36 (D) Possible complications of dialysis.

37 (E) Water treatment and dialysate preparation.

38 (F) Infection control.

39 (G) Safety.

40 (H) Dialyzer reprocessing, if applicable.

1 (2) A community or corporate-based training program, or a  
2 training program offered by an educational institution, is acceptable  
3 if the program meets the requirements of this subdivision.

4 (3) A person employed as a hemodialysis technician by a  
5 hemodialysis clinic or unit for more than two years as of October  
6 14, 2008, who does not have documentation of having successfully  
7 completed a training program meeting the requirements of this  
8 subdivision, shall be deemed to be in compliance with this  
9 subdivision by doing both of the following:

10 (A) Passing a written exam, offered by a hemodialysis clinic or  
11 unit, covering the subjects listed in paragraph (1).

12 (B) Passing a skills checklist through observation by a registered  
13 nurse of the technician's skills.

14 (c) Successfully accomplish either of the following:

15 (1) Pass a standardized test that is approved by the department  
16 and that covers, ~~at a minimum,~~ the subjects listed in paragraph (1)  
17 of subdivision (b) *and in Section 1247.5*. This test shall be  
18 administered in a proctored environment by an independent  
19 examiner. For purposes of this subdivision, independent examiners  
20 may include representatives appointed by End-Stage Renal Disease  
21 Network 17, End-Stage Renal Disease Network 18, the California  
22 Dialysis Council, or any private testing organization approved by  
23 the department for that purpose.

24 (2) Successfully pass an examination offered by a national,  
25 commercially available certification program for hemodialysis  
26 technicians which is approved for this purpose by the Centers for  
27 Medicare and Medicaid Services.

28 SEC. 6. Section 1247.62 is added to the Business and  
29 Professions Code, to read:

30 1247.62. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), Section  
31 1247.6 shall not apply to a person certified by the department as  
32 a hemodialysis technician as of the operative date of this section.

33 (b) Notwithstanding Section 1247.63, the certification of a  
34 person described in subdivision (a) shall be valid until April 15,  
35 2010. That person shall, on or before that date, obtain a new  
36 certification under Section 1247.61 in a manner prescribed by the  
37 department.

38 (c) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2010, and,  
39 as of January 1, 2011, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,

1 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2011, deletes or  
2 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

3 SEC. 7. Section 1247.63 of the Business and Professions Code  
4 is amended to read:

5 1247.63. (a) Certification of a hemodialysis technician issued  
6 by the department pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 1247.6  
7 shall be valid for four years.

8 (b) A certified hemodialysis technician applying for renewal of  
9 his or her certification shall submit proof that he or she has obtained  
10 30 hours of in-service training or continuing education in dialysis  
11 care or general health care as a requirement for the renewal of his  
12 or her certification.

13 (c) An expired certification may be renewed at any time within  
14 two years after its expiration on the filing of an application for  
15 renewal and documentation of the required in-service education.

16 SEC. 8. Section 1247.64 of the Business and Professions Code  
17 is amended to read:

18 1247.64. A hemodialysis technician may obtain the in-service  
19 training or continuing education required by subdivision (b) of  
20 Section 1247.63 from one or more of the following sources:

21 (a) Health-related courses offered by accredited postsecondary  
22 institutions.

23 (b) Health-related courses offered by continuing education  
24 providers approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

25 (c) Health-related courses offered by recognized health  
26 associations if the department determines the courses to be  
27 acceptable.

28 (d) Health-related, employer-sponsored in-service training or  
29 continuing education programs.

30 SEC. 9. Section 1247.8 of the Business and Professions Code  
31 is amended to read:

32 1247.8. Each hemodialysis unit or clinic shall have information  
33 available for inspection by the department survey teams which  
34 verifies that the hemodialysis technicians employed at the unit or  
35 clinic meet the requirements of Section 1247.61.

36 SEC. 10. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
37 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
38 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
39 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
40 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty

1 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
2 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
3 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
4 Constitution.

5 SEC. 11. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the  
6 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within  
7 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into  
8 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

9 To avoid a critical shortage of hemodialysis technicians meeting  
10 the requirements of the Medicare Program Conditions for Coverage  
11 of End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities, it is necessary that this act  
12 take effect immediately.