

SUBJECT: Expanding reporting requirements for health care-associated infections

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — S. Thompson, Allison, Coleman, Frank, Guerra, Lucio, Ortega, Price, Sheffield, Zedler

0 nays

1 absent — Wray

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 10 — 30-0

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code sec. 98.103 establishes state requirements for health care facilities to report certain health care-associated infections to the Department of State Health Services. These requirements differ for the type of infection and type of care.

Some suggest there may be confusion about and inefficiencies in state reporting requirements for certain health care-associated infections at health care facilities. They suggest that aligning the state's reporting requirements with federal requirements could improve clarity and help minimize future infections.

DIGEST: SB 384 would revise reporting requirements for health care-associated infections at health care facilities.

The bill would require all health care facilities to report to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) each health care-associated infection that occurred in the facility and that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services required a facility participating in the Medicare program to report through the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network. A health care facility would be required to report such infections to DSHS regardless of the

facility's participation in Medicare.

The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) would be required to adopt rules to implement the bill's provisions by January 1, 2020, and new reporting requirements for infections would apply only to reports for health care-associated infections that occurred on or after that date.

HHSC would be required to implement the provisions of the bill only if the Legislature appropriated money specifically for that purpose. If the Legislature did not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, HHSC could, but would not be required to, implement a provision of the bill using other appropriations available for that purpose.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of about \$461,000 to general revenue related funds through fiscal 2020-21.