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## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### SB 739

This bill which would mandate public reporting of infection data currently sits in the suspension file. The CACC Public Policy Team continues to work with Senator Speier's office and the California Hospital Association to rewrite the bill to include recommendations from the DHS HAI AWG paper. To review this paper, visit the following site:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/pdf/hai%20awg%20report%20to%20dhs%20-%20final.pdf>

### SB 162

This bill which would create a separate Department of Public Health within California DHS is still in the Senate Committee on Health. Governor Schwarzenegger's recent announcement of plans to reorganize DHS and create a separate State Department of Public Health will affect this piece of legislation.

### SB 1780

Introduced by Senator Alarcon, this bill would have mandated HAI reporting. The Senator pulled this piece of legislation in April. CACC had been discussing the complexities of public reporting of HAIs with his office.

### SB 1785

Introduced by Senator Figueroa, this bill would exempt facilities from registering as tissue banks for the purpose of storing a mother's breast milk for her infant. The following language is taken directly from the bill:

"(h) Current California law inadvertently discourages the feeding of breast milk to infants in the hospital by requiring a hospital that permits a mother to store her milk in a hospital refrigerator to obtain and maintain a full tissue bank license.

(j) ...Many hospitals wish to permit mothers to do this, but are unable to do so due to the lengthy and complicated process required to obtain a full tissue bank license from the State of California."

The goal of the legislature is to encourage breastfeeding of infants in California, especially those hospitalized.

### AB 2335

Introduced by Assembly member Saldana, this bill provides clarification of some language in the Medical Waste Act. The most notable change is the length of time waste can be stored. Instead of the mandated 90 days, the proposed language would read "not longer than 90 days when the container is ready for disposal *or one year, whichever is shorter*". This bill recently passed the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and was put on the Consent Calendar.

To read the complete bills, log on to the following site and follow the directions in the "Bill Search" section on the right side of the webpage. [www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov)

## FEDERAL UPDATES

In Vol. 1, Issue 5 of Sierra.gov, information was included regarding the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's investigation into public reporting standards for HAI's. On September 21, 2005, The Oversight and Investigations subcommittee sent a letter to nine of the largest hospitals in the United States requesting information on how they detect,

monitor and report healthcare-associated infection rates.

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the subcommittee held a hearing titled “Public Reporting of Hospital–Acquired Infection Rates: Empowering Consumers, Saving Lives”. Witnesses were given time to provide prepared statements to the representatives present. The witness list ranged from the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council to the chairperson of the Infection Control Committee for Metrohealth Medical Center in Ohio. Marc Volavka provided information regarding Pennsylvania’s experience with public reporting and included the following statement in his Summary of Remarks:

“...we ultimately need to find ways to get infection control professionals out of the data collection business and into the business of finding and preventing hospital-acquired infections.”

You can access the prepared statements of the witnesses by visiting:

[http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/MandatoryReporting/FederalLegislation/federal\\_legislation.htm](http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/MandatoryReporting/FederalLegislation/federal_legislation.htm)

## WHERE ARE WE WITH MANDATORY REPORTING?

- Connecticut and New Hampshire recently passed mandatory reporting bills. Connecticut will have an 11 member committee design, implement and manage the program. In New Hampshire hospitals are required to report **ALL** central line related BSIs, VAPs, SSIs as well as rates of influenza vaccination, adherence to central line insertion guidelines and surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis.
- Alaska has created a task force to study the issue of mandatory reporting. This task force will include infection prevention and control experts, healthcare experts, consumers and elected officials.

To view APIC’s interactive map of mandatory reporting activity and access specific state laws, visit: [http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/MandatoryReporting/state\\_legislation/state\\_legislation.htm](http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/MandatoryReporting/state_legislation/state_legislation.htm)

Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.  
-Walter Elliot

*To provide information for inclusion in the newsletter or ask questions, please contact:*

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