



# SIERRA.gov

*Your resource for governmental issues*

Volume 2 Issue 5

## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Three of the bills that we have followed during the 2005-2006 legislative session passed both houses and are now awaiting Governor Schwarzenegger's action. He has until September 30<sup>th</sup> the sign or veto these bills. Two bills did not pass the committees they were referred to so are no longer active. Each bill is presented below with a brief description and status as of this writing. To read the entire bill, please visit: [www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov) and follow the directions in the "Bill Search" section on the right side of the webpage.

### SB 739

This bill regarding mandatory reporting of HAIs passed both the Assembly and Senate and was sent to the Governor's office on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Here are some highlights:

- By 7/1/07 all facilities must offer onsite, free and mandatory influenza vaccinations for employees.
- By January 1, 2008, All facilities must implement the CDC recommendations for prevention of CLR-BSIs.
- By January 1, 2008 all facilities will report to DHS their implementation of infection prevention and control process measures (includes central line insertion, surgical antibiotic prophylaxis and influenza vaccine rates for patients & employees). This information will be made public.
- Facilities will also have to implement prevention strategies for surgical site infections and hospital acquired pneumonias by 1/1/2009.
- There are significant requirements for California DHS to implement as well.

This bill has been supported by multiple organizations: CACC, Kaiser Permanente, California Hospital Association, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, CalPERS Board of Administrators, the County of Los Angeles and the Older Women's League of California. Organizations opposed include: Consumer's Union, Service Employees International Union and Adventist Health and Loma Linda University Medical Center.

If this bill passes into law it will impact the practice of Infection Control and your role in your facility. Please take the time to read the bill and contact the Governor's office as soon as possible. You can mail, fax, e-mail or drop off your written opinion.

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### SB 162

This bill which will create a separate Department of Public Health within California DHS was passed by both houses and sent to the Governor's office on 9/7/06.

### AB 2335

This bill updates the Medical Waste Act and was signed by the Governor on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Changes include:

- Small quantity generators of medical waste shall maintain records for two years.
- Removes steam sterilization as a treatment option for the management of recognizable human parts/tissues, chemotherapeutic agents and pharmaceutical waste. These waste products must be incinerated.

*Continued*

### *AB 2335 continued*

- Extends the storage time limit for pharmaceutical waste to 90 days from when the container is ready for disposal. (Current law states that pharmaceutical waste must be disposed of within 90 days, which can lead to nearly empty containers being disposed of in order to meet this requirement.)
- Establishes a storage time limit for consolidated categories of waste which complies with the storage time limit of each category of waste.
- Extends the required storage time limit for sharps waste from no longer than seven days from the time the container is ready for disposal to 30 days.

### **AB 2509**

This bill would have required all general acute care hospitals each year (from October 1st to April 1st) to offer flu and pneumococcal immunizations to inpatients, aged 65 years and older, prior to discharge. This bill passed the Senate Committee on Health and was re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations. It did not move before the end of session so it is no longer active.

### **SB 1785**

Introduced by Senator Figueroa, this bill would have exempted facilities from registering as tissue banks for the purpose of storing a mother's breast milk for her infant. This bill was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee, but did not move before the end of the session so it is no longer active.

## **CMS CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

The last issue of SIERRA.gov misprinted the URL for the draft CMS Interpretive Guidelines. I apologize for this mistake and hope this link will provide easy access to the document. CMS notified APIC that they have accepted a majority of the recommended changes. The document will become final once approved by the CMS legal department. The proposed changes are in red. Follow the link below to review the entire document.

[http://www.cacc.net/Interp\\_Guidelines\\_Draft60906.pdf](http://www.cacc.net/Interp_Guidelines_Draft60906.pdf)

## **WHAT CAN I DO?**

In order to effectively participate in the democratic process, it is important to understand the way things work at the California State Capital. Fortunately, the California State Capital Museum provides a wonderful citizen's guide on their website. Visiting this site will provide you with information on the branches of government, what to expect from your elected officials, the legislative process and how you can get involved. Through their home page, you can also link to multimedia, teacher resources, virtual tours and information regarding the Legislature.

**Capital Museum Home Page**

<http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/english/index.html>

**Capital Museum Citizen's Guide**

<http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/english/citizens/index.html>



*For additional information regarding the Sierra Chapter of  
The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Please visit: [www.apicsierra.org](http://www.apicsierra.org)*

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