
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 859

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), by January 1, 2020, to establish a certification program for community health workers and authorizes the commissioner to adopt implementing regulations. (It does not specify education, training, or other certification requirements for these workers.)

The bill also eliminates an obsolete provision requiring the Office of Health Strategy to study and report to the legislature by October 1, 2018, on the feasibility of creating such a certification program. (The office completed the report in September 2018.)

By law, community health workers are public health outreach professionals with an in-depth understanding of a community's experience, language, culture, and socioeconomic needs, who perform specific tasks. Among other things, they (1) serve as liaisons between community members and health care and social service providers and (2) provide a range of services, including outreach, advocacy, and care coordination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/29/2019)