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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sSB 1086 (File 567, as amended by Senate "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows medical assistants to administer vaccines, under certain conditions, in any setting other than a hospital setting. They may do so only if they (1) meet certain certification, education, and training requirements and (2) are acting under the supervision, control, and responsibility of a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). The bill specifies that it does not authorize employers to require physicians or APRNs, without their consent, to oversee medical assistants administering vaccines.

The bill makes a corresponding change by adding to the list of organizations from whom the Department of Public Health (DPH) must obtain a list of state residents certified as medical assistants.

\*Senate Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill. It (1) removes provisions on outpatient mental health treatment for minors, mental health examinations during annual physicals, a psilocybin task force, and step therapy and (2) adds the provisions on medical assistants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

#### **REQUIRED CERTIFICATION, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING**

Under the bill, to be eligible to administer vaccines a medical assistant generally must be certified by the American Association of Medical Assistants, the National Healthcareer Association, the National Center for Competency Testing, or the American Medical Technologists.

The medical assistant also generally must have graduated from a postsecondary medical assisting program that is:

1. accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, or another accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or
2. offered by a higher education institution accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

The bill's authorization also applies to medical assistants who do not meet the above certification and education requirements but who completed relevant medical assistant training provided by any branch of the U.S. armed forces.

The bill requires a medical assistant, before administering vaccines, to complete at least 24 hours of classroom training and eight hours of clinical training on vaccine administration.

#### **LIST OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS**

Under current law, the DPH commissioner must annually obtain from the American Association of Medical Assistants and the National Healthcareer Association a list of all state residents on each organization's registry of certified medical assistants. The bill extends this requirement to also include comparable lists from the National Center for Competency Testing and the American Medical Technologists. By law and unchanged by the bill, DPH's list must be available for public inspection.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Bill***

sSB 285 (File 33), reported favorably by the Public Health Committee, contains the same provisions on medical assistants.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23    Nay 10    (03/31/2021)

