

California Association of Nurse
Anesthetists:
2007 Legislative Overview

April 14, 2007

Sacramento, CA

Overview of Legislative Landscape

- 2007 is the beginning of a two year session
- Democratically controlled Legislature
 - Freshman Legislators
 - Senate: 25 Dem /15 Reps
 - Assembly: 48 Dem /32 Reps
- Gov. Schwarzenegger focused on “Post-partisanship” spirit
- Health Care Reform
- Other significant issues to address
 - Prison Reform (overhaul of prison health care system)
 - Infrastructure
 - Political Reform

2007 Hot Topic: Health Care Reform

- Gov. and Senate Republican proposals include “relaxing” regulatory burdens on Advanced Nurse Practitioners and other “physician extenders”
 - AB 1436 (Hernandez): Sponsored by CANP will define scope of practice in statute for NP’s.
 - AB 1643 (Niello): Will remove supervision ratios for NP’s.
 - AB 809 (Ashburn): Individual practice for NP’s (two year bill)

Health Care Reform Proposals

- There are 6.5 million Californians uninsured
- Reform is long overdue
- There are 6 plans composed of different strategies to address this critical issue.

1. Governor's Proposals

- Mandating all Californians to have some form of health insurance coverage
- Requiring insurers to guarantee coverage despite any pre-existing conditions
- Encouraging healthy habits
- Providing low-income individuals affordable coverage through a new state program
- Increasing Medi-Cal rates for health care providers, hospitals, and health plans
- Allowing Californians to make pre-tax contributions to Health Savings Accounts
- Charging fees on employers who do not provide health coverage, as well as doctors, and hospitals to help cover increased Medi-Cal rates.

2. Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez's Proposal (AB 8)

- Focuses on increasing the availability, affordability, and accessibility of health insurance
- Emphasizes prevention and wellness, minimizing bureaucratic obstacles, and providing incentives for small businesses to provide health insurance to their workers
- Ensures that every California child has health coverage by expanding the state's Healthy Families Program

3. Assembly Republicans' Proposal (comprised of 18 different bills)

- Eliminate minimum benefits insurers must offer
- Allow businesses to purchase insurance policies that cover both health care and workers' compensation
- Allow doctors to obtain tax credits for treating people without insurance
- Require foundations created when the state allowed health plans to merge or become for-profit to spend at least 90% of their money on health care for the poor
- Increase the amount Medi-Cal pays to doctors and hospitals
- Encourage to save money for medical expenses in a Health Savings Account

4. Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata's Proposal (SB 48)

- Focuses on ensuring working families have access to affordable health insurance
- Building on the current system of providing workers with unemployment insurance and state disability insurance, with employers and employees sharing responsibility for the cost
- Requiring all workers to show “proof of health coverage” in order to claim certain tax credits for themselves and their dependents
- Requiring employers to provide health insurance to their employees or contribute to a state program
- Expanding the Healthy Families program and Medi-Cal to cover children and their parents for households earning up to \$48,000 for a family of three

5. Senate Republicans' Proposal (SB 236)

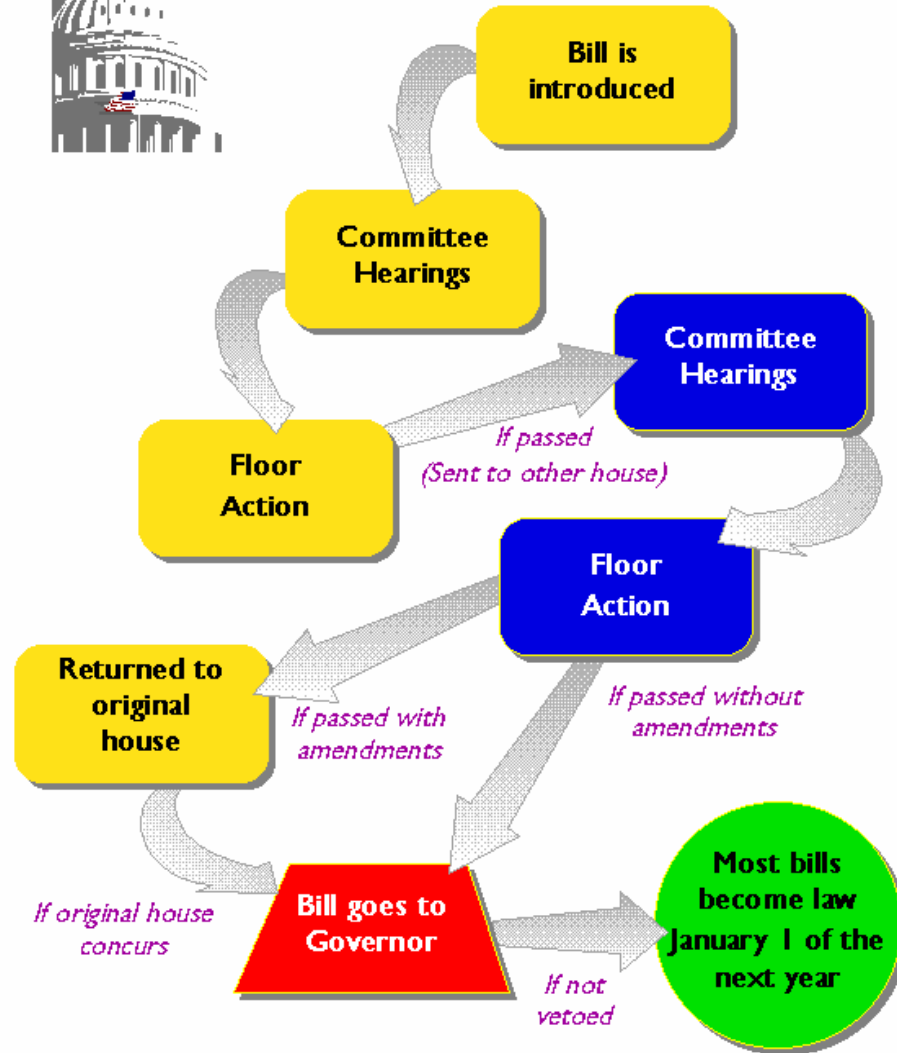
- Gives tax credits and other incentives to employers to provide health insurance for their employees, as well as to entice more physicians to accept Medi-Cal patients
- Calls for an expansion of community clinics for uninsured patients seeking basic care, by giving incentives to encourage clinic construction
- Asks the Legislature and voters to change use of First Five Commission tax dollars, which currently pays for a variety of children's programs, to only finance children's health care initiatives

6. Senator Sheila Kuehl (SB 840)

- Establish a “single-payer” health care system
- Last year this bill was approved by the Legislature last year but vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger
- This would create a state agency to pay for the health care
- Financed by payroll and income taxes
- Aimed at reducing the administrative costs associated with health care



How a Bill Becomes a Law



Other Priority Legislation

- SB 620 (Correa) - Dentistry: general anesthesia
- AB 139 (Bass) – Vehicles: schoolbus drivers: medical examinations
- AB 606 (Galgiani) - Medi-Cal: reimbursement rates

SB 620 (Correa) - Dentistry: General Anesthesia

- Repeals the January 1, 2008 sunset date, thereby extending indefinitely, the current law authorizing a physician and surgeon to administer general anesthesia to a dental patient in the office of a dentist who does not possess a general anesthesia permit if the physician and surgeon holds a valid general anesthesia permit issued by the Dental Board of California.
- CANA Position: CANA is negotiating with the sponsor of the bill, CA Dental Assn., to include CRNA's in the bill.
- Status: Passed out of Senate B&P. (A:7;N:0). Referred to Senate Approps.

AB 139 (Bass) - Vehicles: School Bus Drivers: Medical Examinations

- Allows licensed physician assistants and advanced practice nurses to conduct medical examinations on applicants seeking licensure to drive a schoolbus, youth activity bus, farm labor vehicle or paratransit bus.
- CANA position: Support
- Status: Passed out of Assembly (A:69; N:0)

AB 606 (Galgiani) - Medi-Cal: Reimbursement Rates

- Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, and which provides health care services to qualified low-income recipients. This bill would provide that commencing January 1, 2008, the reimbursement levels for physician and dental services shall be increased by 5%.
- AB 1312 (Emmerson): The amended version will increase Medi-Cal rates to 80% of Medicare rates for physicians and hospitals.
- CANA Position: watch
- Status: April 24th hearing in Asm. Health.

Summary & Conclusion