

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
AB 1585 (Committee on Health) – As Amended April 5, 2021

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 15-0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This health-related committee bill expands the types of professional who may serve as infection preventionist employed by a skilled nursing facility and extends the due date on the required issuance of regulations related to the California Children's Services (CCS) Whole Child Model (WCM) program.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Cost pressure to the California Department of Public Health over three years, not likely to exceed \$100,000 per year, to issue regulations implementing education and training for infection preventionists (Licensing and Certification Fund).

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill contains minor and technical changes to health programs.
- 2) **CCS WCM.** The California Children's Services (CCS) Program provides diagnosis, treatment and medical case management to children with special health care needs who are enrolled in Medi-Cal, are low-income or have catastrophic medical care costs. The Whole Child Model (WCM) program merged CCS services into Medi-Cal managed care in 21 counties served by the state's County Organized Health Care Systems (COHS). The program was to begin implementation no sooner than July 1, 2017, but DHCS ultimately implemented the program later than originally planned, with the last phase beginning July 1, 2019. Current statute requires regulations to be promulgated by July 1, 2020 and DHCS needs more time.
- 3) **Infection Preventionists.** COVID-19 infections at skilled nursing facilities were rampant and deadly throughout 2020. AB 2644 (Wood), Chapter 287, Statutes of 2020, required a SNF to have a full-time, dedicated infection preventionist. It requires the person to be a registered nurse or a licensed vocational nurse, inadvertently excluding other qualified professionals including an individual trained as a licensed nurse, medical technologist, microbiologist, epidemiologist, public health professional, or other health care related field. This bill expands who can serve as an infection preventionist.
- 4) **Related Legislation.** AB 382 (Kamlager), pending on the Assembly Floor, extends the sunset of an advisory group on the California Children's Services (CCS) Whole Child Model by two years until December 31, 2023.