
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

AB 2117 (Gipson) - Mobile stroke units

Version: April 20, 2022

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 1, 2022

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2117 would provide for a statutory definition of “mobile stroke unit.”

Fiscal Impact:

- The CA Department of Public Health (CDPH) estimates a one-time cost of \$444,000 ((Licensing and Certification Fund) over 3 years to develop regulations outlining the mobile stroke unit definition.
- The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) estimates one-time General Fund costs of at least \$182,000 in the first year and \$175,000 in the second year to develop necessary regulatory changes.

Background: The Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act (EMS Act) provides for a statewide system for emergency medical services (EMS), and establishes EMSA, which is responsible for the coordination and integration of all state activities concerning EMS, including the establishment of minimum standards, policies, and procedures.

The CA Department of Public Health is responsible for the licensure and regulation of various health facilities in the state, including general acute care hospitals, special hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), intermediate care facilities (ICFs), and congregate living health facilities.

There are currently two mobile stroke units (MSUs) operating in California. The UCLA Health MSU, and the Mills-Peninsula MSU operated by Sutter Health in San Mateo County. According to UCLA, its MSU was brought into service in 2017, and was the first of its kind on the west coast. The MSU is a specially-equipped ambulance, built with a mobile CT scanner, point-of-care lab tests, telehealth connection with a hospital, and stroke medications, all designed to deliver proven stroke therapies to patients faster than ever before. The MSU is designed to take all of the care traditionally given in the emergency department of a hospital, and deliver it directly to stroke patients where they are, all before transporting the patient to an approved stroke center for further care. The Mills-Peninsula MSU was brought into service in December of 2018.

Proposed Law: AB 2117 would define “mobile stroke unit” as a multijurisdictional mobile facility that serves as an emergency response critical care ambulance under the direction and approval of a local emergency medical services agency, and as a diagnostic, evaluation, and treatment unit, providing radiographic imaging, laboratory testing, and medical treatment under the supervision of a physician in person or by

telehealth, for patients with symptoms of a stroke, to the extent consistent with any federal definition of a mobile stroke unit, as specified in federal law.

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