

Date of Hearing: July 16, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
SB 717 (Richardson) – As Introduced February 21, 2025

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) continue to maintain the existing statewide and regional infrastructure and system of the California Cancer Registry (CCR). The bill also requires the director of CDPH submit an implementation and funding schedule to the Legislature by January 1, 2027. The bill requires CDPH partner with the regional registries to maximize the use of federal funds.

FISCAL EFFECT:

CDPH estimates annual General Fund costs of approximately \$91,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 through FY 2028-29 to update the regulations governing CCR.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the University of Southern California (USC) and the Keck School of Medicine - USC and the Public Health Institute. According to the author:

[CCR] has relied on the regional registries as the state-designated agents to perform data collection for the statewide cancer surveillance system. The current three regional registries have been in operation since 2000, and they are also...core registries of the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). They have been federally funded by NCI for over 50 years and have always served as the foundation of California's cancer surveillance, preceding the state level operations of the CCR by more than a decade.

Since 2000, the federal government, through the NCI SEER contract awards to the three [registries in California]..., has invested over \$15 million annually to cover 80% of these CCR regional registries' operational costs...However, current law does not recognize the three regional registries, which risks their eligibility for the competitive renewal of their next NCI SEER contracts and, in turn, poses severe financial strain for the state to maintain the legally mandated statewide cancer reporting system.

- 2) **Background.** AB 136 (Connelly), Chapter 841, Statutes of 1985, established the CCR, California's statewide cancer surveillance system. The three regional registries are the Greater Bay Area Cancer Registry (administered by the University of California, San Francisco), the Los Angeles County Cancer Surveillance Program (administered by the University of Southern California), and the Cancer Registry of Greater California (administered by the Public Health Institute), which covers all other counties. The CCR collects all the data from the regional registries into a statewide database. The CCR, regional registries, and researchers use the data to measure and study the burden of cancer in communities and to identify cancer trends, risk factors, causes, and effects of various programs.

Funding of the CCR. In FY 2024-25, CCR received \$11.9 million, of which \$2.5 million was federal funds from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and \$9.4 million was state funds from the General Fund, Proposition 99 Fund, and the Breast Cancer Research Fund. According to the author, the regional registries receive a combined \$15 million SEER funding annually to cover 80% of costs.

- 3) **Prior Legislation.** SB 344 (Rubio) Chapter 867, Statutes of 2023, allowed individuals who are authorized to access confidential data in cancer registries to participate in data sharing with other authorized individuals. SB 344 also required a pathology laboratory report cancer diagnoses electronically.

Analysis Prepared by: Allegra Kim / APPR. / (916) 319-2081