

Date of Hearing: July 16, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 83 (Umbert) – As Amended July 3, 2025

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to post on its website an identification and summary of each violation DHCS has issued for a licensed adult residential alcohol or other drug (AOD) recovery or treatment facility (RTF) and certified AOD program included on the “Probationary Status, Temporary Suspension Order, Revoked and Notice of Operation in Violation of Law Program List” (Violation List). The bill also requires DHCS indicate, prominently on the website containing the Violation List, that recovery residences found to be providing treatment without first obtaining RTF licensure from DHCS are not included on the Violation List.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires DHCS indicate on the website containing the Violation List, in a location and font that is easy to see and read, that notices issued to recovery residences found to be providing treatment without first obtaining DHCS licensure as an RTF, are not included on the Violation List.
- 2) Requires DHCS post on its website, in a location easily navigable from a link on its main homepage that is prominently located and clearly and conspicuously labeled, an identification and summary of each violation issued to a licensed RTF or certified AOD program on the Violation List. Requires each violation summary include:
 - a) Name of the entity or person to whom DHCS issued the violation.
 - b) A citation to the relevant statute, regulation, or standard.
 - c) A summary of DHCS’ decision to issue the violation.
 - d) The date DHCS issued the violation.
 - e) Any other information DHCS determines is necessary for the public to recognize the entity or person who received the violation and understand the basis for the violation.
- 3) Requires DHCS implement the provisions of this bill to protect the public by providing sufficient information regarding those who violate the state laws it administers and prohibits DHCS from posting information that violates privacy rights and protections provided by state or federal law.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs to DHCS of an unknown amount, potentially over \$150,000 annually (Residential Outpatient Licensing Fund).

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

[DHCS] is required to provide a website with various data regarding the status of treatment and recovery facilities, including their addresses, license numbers, and notices of law violations. However, they do not list the reasons for probationary status, suspensions, and revoked programs. This lack of transparency undermines public trust, leading patients and families to make uninformed decisions about their care. This also exacerbates the issue of subpar facilities operating without proper scrutiny... SB 83 would enhance transparency and trust in the regulatory process by requiring DHCS to post on its website, in a specified manner, an identification and summary of each violation the department has issued...[which will] help us achieve our shared goal of ensuring that treatment facilities meet standards for patient care, which is crucial to effective treatment outcomes and community well-being.

2) **Background.** DHCS conducts reviews of RTF operations every two years, or as necessary, as part of its licensing function. DHCS's Substance Use Disorder Compliance Division checks for compliance with statute and regulations and investigates all complaints related to RTFs, including deaths, complaints against staff, and allegations of operating without a license. As of January 1, 2024, certification is required for many AOD programs, with exceptions for various licensed facility types, schools, jails, and prisons. As of March 2025, DHCS reported it had certified 1,055 outpatient facilities and 989 licensed facilities.

3) **Related Legislation.**

AB 492 (Valencia) requires DHCS to notify a city or county of the issuance of a new license to an RTF within the local government's jurisdiction. AB 492 is pending on the Senate floor.

SB 35 (Umberg) requires DHCS initiate an investigation into unlicensed operation of an RTF within 10 days of receiving the allegation and complete the investigation within 60 days. SB 35 also allows a county participating in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System waiver to inspect a facility with an allegation that DHCS can substantiate, subject to receiving approval from DHCS. SB 35 is pending in the Assembly Health Committee.

SB 329 (Blakespear) requires DHCS assign a complaint regarding an RTF to an analyst for investigation within 10 days of receiving the complaint and to complete an investigation within 60 days of assigning the complaint, except under specified circumstances, and notify the complainant if the investigation cannot be completed within 60 days. SB 329 is pending on this committee's suspense file.