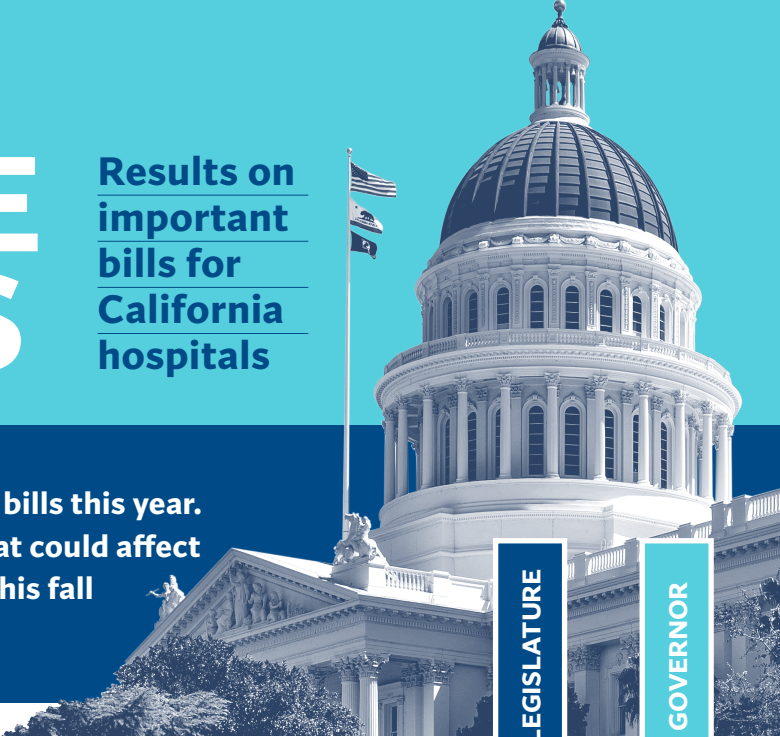


CHA 2024

LEGISLATIVE
HIGHLIGHTS

Results on
important
bills for
California
hospitals



CHA engaged the Legislature on hundreds of health care bills this year. Below are the final outcomes of significant legislation that could affect how hospitals deliver care. CHA will issue a report later this fall on all new laws impacting hospitals.

Seismic Mandate Extension Despite passing the Legislature without a single “no” vote, the governor vetoed a bill that would have secured up to five years of additional time, pending individual hospital approval from the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), for hospitals to comply with the 2030 seismic construction mandate. (Senate Bill 1432)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✗ VETO</div>
Small Hospital Support/Seismic Extension Supported small hospitals by prioritizing eligibility for funding from the Small and Rural Hospital Relief Program and delaying the 2030 seismic deadline for eligible hospitals, including rural and district hospitals, up to three years. It also allows for an additional two-year delay depending on financial need or construction delays. (Assembly Bill 869)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✓ SIGN</div>
Insurer Accountability Helped pass a package of bills that shines more light on harmful insurance company practices and creates greater accountability by reducing use of AI in authorization and coverage decisions, requiring additional financial reporting, and more. (Senate Bill 1320 , Senate Bill 1120 , Assembly Bill 3221 , Assembly Bill 1842)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✓ SIGN</div>
Critical Access Hospital Support Despite passing the Legislature without a single “no” vote, the governor vetoed a bill that would have advanced the conversation to ensure small, rural, and critical access hospitals remain viable by having a Hospital Technical Advisory Group within the Department of Health Care Services issue a report to the Legislature with recommendations. (Senate Bill 1423)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✗ VETO</div>
Psychiatric Services in Emergency Departments Sponsored and passed legislation requiring Medi-Cal to cover hospital emergency department services provided to patients with psychiatric emergencies. Empowers hospitals to promptly transfer patients to inpatient psychiatric care without delays by counties and health plans. (Assembly Bill 1316)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✓ SIGN</div>
State Budget To address a \$45 billion-plus budget deficit, the state pulled back on previously committed Medi-Cal provider payment increases. For hospitals, this meant the loss of \$1.5 billion in new annual funding (including federal matching dollars). CHA and a coalition of providers and health plans are pursuing a ballot initiative — Prop 35 — to restore this funding.	<div>✗ PASS</div>	<div>✗ SIGN</div>
Private Attorneys General Act Helped secure reforms to the Private Attorneys General Act. Provisions include: a less punitive penalty structure, clarification of the “cure” process before a lawsuit may proceed, and changes to requirements that ensure a plaintiff personally experienced labor code violations. (Senate Bill 92 and Assembly Bill 2288)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✓ SIGN</div>
Weapons Detection For a bill that would have required cumbersome weapons detection systems for all hospitals, secured amendments to create exceptions for small and rural hospitals and flexibility for all hospitals in implementation. (Assembly Bill 2975)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✓ SIGN</div>
Private Equity Secured a veto for a bill that would have required hedge funds and private equity groups to notify and receive prior approval from the attorney general when entering into a transaction with a health care facility or provider group. (Assembly Bill 3129)	<div>✗ PASS</div>	<div>✓ VETO</div>
Workers’ Compensation Presumptive Eligibility Halted a bill that would have created a rebuttable presumption that an infectious disease, respiratory disease, cancer, PTSD, or musculoskeletal injury arose out of work for any hospital direct patient care worker. (Assembly Bill 1156)	<div>✓ STOP</div>	<div>N/A</div>
Workplace Violence Sponsored and passed a bill to enhance certain penalties for violence committed against first responders to now apply to all health care workers who provide services within emergency departments. (Assembly Bill 977)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✓ SIGN</div>
Nurse Education Despite broad legislative support, the governor vetoed two bills that would have increased nursing education opportunities by requiring California Community Colleges to develop a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program at 10 community college districts. (Senate Bill 895 , Assembly Bill 2104)	<div>✓ PASS</div>	<div>✗ VETO</div>
Health Information Exchange Halted a bill that would have created cumbersome and confusing requirements for health care data exchange via the Center for Data Insights and Innovation taking over the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) Data Exchange Framework. (Assembly Bill 1331)	<div>✓ STOP</div>	<div>N/A</div>