

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Greenlick

Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 20 – 2 – 0

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays: Richardson

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Whitsett

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 9, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes civil penalty authority and modifies the fee structure for ambulatory surgical centers and certain other health care facilities to enable the inspection of these licensed health care facilities at least once every three years and the thorough investigation of citizen complaints to ensure the safety and quality care of patients. The bill also better defines what is meant by ambulatory surgical centers; and clarifies licensing requirements and requirements for disclosure and consent.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Note that this is a consensus bill

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, there is no state licensing or Medicare oversight of health care staffing agencies that provide care to vulnerable individuals in their homes. In addition, there are currently no requirements that a provider must furnish disclosure and consent information that would assist consumers in their decision-making. In the past decade, agency fees have remained unchanged and Medicare funding has decreased. Additionally, the Department of Human Services receives no General Fund money for the program.

From 1974 to 2007, survey workload has increased from 80 to 352 inspections. In 2007, investigations of patient and family complaints rose from 35 to 130. Since 2001, facilities licensed and certified by the Health Care Licensure and Certification (HCLC) program increased from 367 to 536.