



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1063 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to annually review its enforcement of hospital nurse-to-patient ratio regulations and submit a public report with its findings to the Legislature beginning January 1, 2025. The bill would also require CDPH to hold a public hearing at least every two years to receive input from nurses and other stakeholders regarding the efficacy of the department's enforcement.

I agree it is important to ensure nurse-to-patient staffing ratios are enforced properly for patient safety and maintaining the nursing workforce. However, much of the information this bill seeks to document is already publicly available. Further, this Administration prioritizes ongoing and open engagement with stakeholders. A biennial, public hearing is unnecessary for the state to receive input and make changes. I am directing CDPH to continue actively consulting with nurses and their representative labor groups to identify additional opportunities to increase transparency and communication. Further, I have asked CDPH to update their hospital citations tracking system to include a category specific to nurse-to-patient ratio violations, and to publish this on the Center for Health Care Quality's State Enforcement Tracking Dashboard.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom

