

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1199

Introduced by Assembly Member Patterson

February 21, 2025

An act to add Section 1257.55 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1199, as amended, Patterson. Hospitals: employee identification.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to license and regulate health facilities, including, among others, general acute care hospitals and acute psychiatric hospitals. A violation of these provisions is a crime. Existing law requires a health care practitioner to disclose, while working, their name and license status on a name tag in at least 18-point type, subject to specified exceptions.

This bill would require general acute care hospitals and acute psychiatric hospitals to develop and implement a policy that requires all employees who have patient contact to wear an identification tag while on duty that contains prescribed information. ~~The bill would authorize the hospital to make an exemption from this requirement for purposes of employee safety.~~ By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

2 (a) Existing professional licensing law requires health care
3 practitioners to disclose their name and California license status
4 on a name tag, with specified exceptions. One such exception
5 applies to practitioners working in psychiatric settings, where
6 safety concerns may warrant the absence of a name tag to protect
7 staff from potential harm.

8 (b) Existing hospital licensing regulations require hospitals to
9 implement a policy that requires all employees having patient
10 contact to wear an identification tag while on duty. There are no
11 exceptions to this requirement. The regulation does not specify
12 whether the employee's full first and last name must be printed
13 on the name tag.

14 (c) To maintain the safety and privacy of hospital employees
15 while maintaining workplace security and professional
16 identification standards, the Legislature finds it necessary to align
17 hospital licensing regulations with health care practitioner licensing
18 statutes by allowing hospitals to implement policies that protect
19 employee identity through clarified identification tag requirements.

20 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature to align hospital licensing
21 regulations with health care practitioner licensing statutes by
22 allowing hospitals to implement policies that protect employee
23 identity through clarified identification tag requirements.

24 SEC. 2. Section 1257.55 is added to the Health and Safety
25 Code, immediately following Section 1257.5, to read:

26 1257.55. (a) (1) A hospital shall develop and implement a
27 policy that requires all employees who have patient contact to wear
28 an identification tag while on duty.

29 (2) For purposes of this section, "hospital" means a general
30 acute care hospital, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1250,
31 and an acute psychiatric hospital, as defined in subdivision (b) of
32 Section 1250.

1 (b) The name badge shall include, in 18-point type or larger,
2 the employee's vocational classification or California license status,
3 and one of the following:

4 (1) The employee's first and last name.

5 (2) The employee's first name and last initial.

6 (3) The employee's first initial and last name.

7 (4) The employee's first name or last name only.

8 ~~(e) The hospital may make an exception from the identification~~
9 ~~tag requirement for purposes of employee safety.~~

10 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
11 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
12 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
13 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
14 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
15 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
16 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
17 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
18 Constitution.