

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 amend Section 4334 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to state hospitals; add Section 1257.55 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1199, as amended, Patterson. ~~State Department of State Hospitals. 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.

~~Existing law sets forth various functions and duties for the State Department of State Hospitals with respect to the administration of state institutions for the care and treatment of persons with mental health disorders. Existing law, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, among other provisions, authorizes the involuntary detention for up to 180 days, of certain persons who have been determined to be imminently dangerous, as specified. The act also authorizes the appointment of a conservator of the person, or of the estate, or of the person and the estate, for a person who is gravely disabled or impaired by chronic alcoholism. Existing law requires a conservator appointed pursuant to these provisions to place the conservatee according to specified requirements and authorizes the placement to include certain facilities, including, among others, a state hospital. Existing law requires counties to contract with the department for the number and types of state hospital beds required by the counties for purposes of the act, and requires the contract to set forth the specific type of services requested by the county. Existing law requires the department, in collaboration with counties, to prepare and publish a catalog of available state hospital services, and annually update the catalog.~~

~~This bill would require the department to make the catalog easily accessible on the department’s internet website.~~

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

1 *whether the employee’s full first and last name must be printed on*
2 *the name tag.*

3 *(c) To maintain the safety and privacy of hospital employees*
4 *while maintaining workplace security and professional*
5 *identification standards, the Legislature finds it necessary to align*
6 *hospital licensing regulations with health care practitioner*
7 *licensing statutes by allowing hospitals to implement policies that*
8 *protect employee identity through clarified identification tag*
9 *requirements.*

10 *(d) It is the intent of the Legislature to align hospital licensing*
11 *regulations with health care practitioner licensing statutes by*
12 *allowing hospitals to implement policies that protect employee*
13 *identity through clarified identification tag requirements.*

14 *SEC. 2. Section 1257.55 is added to the Health and Safety*
15 *Code, immediately following Section 1257.5, to read:*

16 *1257.55. (a) (1) A hospital shall develop and implement a*
17 *policy that requires all employees who have patient contact to*
18 *wear an identification tag while on duty.*

19 *(2) For purposes of this section, “hospital” means a general*
20 *acute care hospital, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1250,*
21 *and an acute psychiatric hospital, as defined in subdivision (b) of*
22 *Section 1250.*

23 *(b) The name badge shall include, in 18-point type or larger,*
24 *the employee’s vocational classification or California license*
25 *status, and one of the following:*

26 *(1) The employee’s first and last name.*

27 *(2) The employee’s first name and last initial.*

28 *(3) The employee’s first initial and last name.*

29 *(4) The employee’s first name or last name only.*

30 *(c) The hospital may make an exception from the identification*
31 *tag requirement for purposes of employee safety.*

32 *SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*
33 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because*
34 *the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school*
35 *district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or*
36 *infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty*
37 *for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of*
38 *the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within*
39 *the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*
40 *Constitution.*

1 SECTION 1. ~~Section 4334 of the Welfare and Institutions Code~~
2 ~~is amended to read:~~
3 ~~4334. (a) The State Department of State Hospitals, in~~
4 ~~collaboration with counties, shall do all of the following:~~
5 ~~(1) Prepare and publish a catalog of available state hospital~~
6 ~~services. The catalog shall be updated annually.~~
7 ~~(2) Develop a process by which a county or group of counties~~
8 ~~constituting the primary user of a particular hospital may, upon~~
9 ~~their request individually, or through selected representatives,~~
10 ~~participate in long-range planning and program development to~~
11 ~~ensure the provision of appropriate services.~~
12 ~~(3) Ensure direct county involvement in admission to, and~~
13 ~~discharge from, beds contracted for patients under Part 1~~
14 ~~(commencing with Section 5000) of Division 5.~~
15 ~~(b) The department shall make the catalog of available state~~
16 ~~hospital services easily accessible on the department's internet~~
17 ~~website.~~