

2009-2010 Legislation/Issues  
By Mathew Foley

You can get more information on each bill by going to the following web address and typing in the number of each bill (ie AB 911). <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>

1. AB 911 (Lieu): Emergency rooms: overcrowding

This is a bill that CAL/ACEP is sponsoring that mandates each ED in California to calculate a NEDOCS score on ongoing basis (stipulated in the bill) and have a protocol in place for ED overcrowding that correlates with a NEDOCS score. This bill is currently on the Senate floor and is expected to pass out of the senate and to be vetoed by the governor. A PR person is being hired to help in convincing the governor's office to sign the bill.

2. AB 1475 (Solorio): Emergency medical services

AB 1475 is on the Senate Floor and expected to move to the governor's desk within a few weeks.

This bill is to secure a portion of MADDY funds for Emergency Medical Service providers. CAL/ACEP is in support of this bill.

3. SB 726 (Ashburn): Health care districts: rural hospitals: employment of physicians and surgeons

Cal/ACEP expects that SB 726 will likely move from the Assembly Appropriations Cmte. and the Floor, but that is likely to be held in the Senate and not be passed. CAL/ACEP is in an oppose position. CAL/ACEP, CMA, and AAEM are opposing this bill.

4. SB 743 (Committee on Health): Health facilities: psychiatric patient release

SB 743 is awaiting action by the governor. This bill would extend the immunity from civil and criminal liability to the specified facilities and staff for the detention of

any person who meets specified criteria, whether or not they qualify for a 72-hour evaluation, and for the actions after release of a person who was detained up to 24 hours and who meets specified criteria. California Hospital Association, California Psychiatric Association, Civil Justice Association of California are all in support of the bill. CAL/ACEP is following the bill but not listed in support or opposition.

5. AB 962 (De Leon): Ammunition

Asm. De Leon's office requested that CAL/ACEP take a support position and now CAL/ACEP is in support of the bill. This bill in essence is to more closely track handgun users. I think this is a political move for CAL/ACEP in the Assembly Member De Leon is the chair of the Appropriations committee and helped us with AB 911 and other bills. CAL/ACEP is deciding to help De Leon with this bill because of the result of GSW's seen in the ED and the hope that his bill will protect our patients. CAL/ACEP is supporting this bill.