

Because house Bill 354 would mandate a certain level of optional Medicaid eligibility, it unacceptably impairs the Human Service Department's ability to look at options in controlling the Medicaid budget.

H 364 HEALTH SERVICES REGULATIONS HEARINGS

April 8, 1997

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 29

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 364 enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This legislation amends the Department of Health Act and the Human Services Department Act to require both departments to hold public hearings on proposed regulations in at least one location in each geographic quadrant of the state.

Public hearings are an essential feature of effective and open government to allow citizens the opportunity to participate in the development of rules and regulations as well as proposed program changes. Accordingly, the Health and Human Services Departments publish regulations, conduct public hearings and receive public comment throughout the year and across the state. However, House Bill 364 would place into law a rigid "quadrant approach" to public hearings that is unjustifiably expensive and burdensome.

H 365 PRIMARY CARE CAPITAL FUND

April 11, 1997

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 75

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 365, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This legislation is similar to and conflicts with SB 198 (Amends Primary Care Capital Funding) which was signed into law. Both bills remove an unworkable restriction in current law concerning liens on property associated with the issuance of loans for hospital projects. This restriction has resulted in the inability to issue any loans, even though numerous projects have been submitted and the need to improve hospital facilities exists.

Because the bills are in conflict, only one could be enacted. SB 198 is preferable because it does not restrict the lending authority to apply loan repayment credits of not less than 10% and not more than 25% of the loan amount from indigent services rendered by the hospital with the loan. The net result of this restriction may be to divert money that could be used for more loans for hospital improvements into increased support of indigent services. There are other indigent service mechanisms in law and the loan authority already has the power in existing law to grant a credit for indigent services if that is in the best interest of the fund.

H 366 HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

April 9, 1997

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 46

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 366, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This bill would re-establish a Health Care Task Force. The duties of the task force would be to facilitate an ongoing partnership between the executive and legislative branches and to bring together various groups working on health care reform. The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was established to address health care issues such as those outlined in this legislation. Further, the Department of Health and the Human Services Department have indicated they will continue to work with the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee.

H 370 ADDITIONAL SIERRA MAGISTRATE

April 11, 1997

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 89

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 370, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This legislation, which establishes a new magistrate judgeship in Sierra County, is vetoed because the costs and additional personnel required do not appear justified at this time.