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## AB 594: Health and Safety: Local Public Health Laboratories

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### **SUMMARY OF THE BILL AS AMENDED:**

SB 594 is sponsored by the California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD). The bill, as proposed, does the following:

- Defines a public health laboratory in Health and Safety Code as one operated by a city or county or JPA.
- Requires that the public health laboratory provide laboratory services necessary for the examination of specimens from suspected cases of infectious and environmental diseases to support the communicable disease and environmental health programs of the local health department.
- Allows counties to contract for lab services with other county or city public health labs or the State lab.
- Public health laboratory directors would be responsible to the local health officer in all matters concerning the public's health. It does not preclude the local health department from requiring the public health laboratory director to be administratively responsible to other local health department personnel.
- Requires the CA Department of Public Health to develop and administer written examinations for the certificate of public health microbiologists. This codifies existing regulation requirements.
- Adds clarifying definitions of various public health lab related terms including the definition of a public health lab.
- Creates a continuing education requirement for public health microbiologists to be administered by the state.
- Establishes minimum standards for training public health microbiologists.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Oppose unless amended due to the restrictions on flexibility this bill would impose on local health departments.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/IMPACT TO COUNTY**

- By requiring in Health and Safety Code that a local health department's designated public health lab be operated by a county or city a county or city it would prevent a county from contracting with a privately owned lab that is overseen by the local health department and meets all CDPH regulatory requirements for operating a public health lab
- By identifying specific types of lab services that must be provided by a designated public health lab, local health departments could not contract out these lab services to a private clinical lab.
- County or city public health lab microbiologists would be required to complete continuing education credits every one or two years. County/city labs and their personnel could not be charged fees – unclear whether costs could be passed on to county or city health departments.

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*Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer*



**SUPPORT**

California Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD)

**OPPOSE**

Los Angeles County

Orange County

**OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

County Health Executives of California (CHEAC)

California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

Urban Counties Caucus (UCC)

Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC)

Marin County

City and County of San Francisco

Ventura County

Santa Clara County

Nevada County

Sacramento County

Riverside County Department of Public Health

San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Health

**COUNTY CONTACT**

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