

SB 582 (STERN)

LICENSING SUPPORT IN STATE DISASTERS

UPDATED: APRIL 15, 2025

SUMMARY

This bill assists state licensed facilities on their path to recovery and rebuilding by streamlining licensing processes and providing departments with the authority to waive licensing fees and other licensing requirements.

SB 582 also requires skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly to submit an evacuation plan to the medical health operational coordinator (MHOAC) who may recommend revisions to the submitted evacuation plan.

THE PROBLEM

Under existing law, destroyed or shuttered facilities will need to go through various lengthy processes in order to obtain a new state license if they have to rebuild, relocate or make lengthy repairs to a damaged facility.

In the meantime, state licensed facility owners must continue to pay annual licensing fees on the inoperative facilities.

Additionally, for child care facilities and adult day health facilities, which are paid based on daily attendance, being unable to open in the immediate aftermath of a disaster can mean financial ruin. This is true even of facilities that physically could be open, but are within evacuation areas.

BACKGROUND

On January 7, the Los Angeles area saw two massive wildfires begin which swept through established communities, levelling thousands of homes and businesses and changing the course of people's lives.

More than 435 state-licensed facilities that serve children, seniors and people with disabilities and chronic health conditions were damaged or destroyed in the LA fires. Of those, 67 were completely destroyed, displacing vulnerable

adults and children and leaving their families without vital safety net services.

THE SOLUTION

For licensed facilities that are destroyed or closed in a state or federally declared disaster or emergency, SB 582 provides the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Department of Public Health (CDPH) the flexibility to grant a disaster suspension of an active license for those facilities. This enables the facility to avoid lengthy and costly re-licensing processes when the facility is ready to re-open. It also requires CDSS to collaborate with local building, planning and permitting officials, local childcare agencies, regional centers and the local fire marshal to ensure swift and seamless processes to inspect and license facilities being rebuilt.

SB 582 gives DSS, DHCS and CDPH the authority to waive all or part of the annual state licensing fees for facilities which are being rebuilt and have been authorized for disaster-suspended licenses. It also requires state agencies that have overlapping oversight of the same facilities to coordinate re-licensing and re-certification activities, including utilizing concurrent processes.

Additionally, SB 582 ensures that for the first 30 days of a state- or federally declared disaster, the state shall waive in-person or daily attendance requirements for Community Based Adult Services programs and childcare programs that are destroyed or rendered non-operational during that time.

Lastly, SB 582 requires the submission of the facilities' evacuation plans to the MHOAC to promote facility emergency-response-readiness by allowing review and revision of the plan.

SUPPORT

California Assisted Living Association

SUPPORT cont.

California Association for Health Services at
Home

Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles

Child Care Resource Center

Justice in Aging