

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 717

**Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Jerome Horton)**

February 17, 2005

An act to add Section 1254.3 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 717, as introduced, Gordon. Centinela Airport Clinic: emergency care.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of health facilities by the State Department of Health Services. Existing law requires the department to license a health facility to provide basic services associated with the type of health facility. Existing law authorizes the department to grant a special permit for a health facility to provide one or more special services, including emergency center services.

Existing law requires the department to issue a single consolidated license to a general acute care hospital that includes more than one physical plant maintained and operated on separate premises or that has multiple licenses for a single health facility on the same premises if the general acute care hospital meets certain criteria and applicable requirements of licensure.

This bill would require the department to issue a special permit to the Centinela Airport Clinic to allow the clinic to operate as an emergency receiving center and be considered the equivalent of a contiguous emergency department of a general acute care hospital, if the clinic satisfies 7 requirements.

The bill would require the department to report to the Legislature by May 1, 2009, on the effect the clinic has had on the quality of emergency health care services provided to the community served.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Centinela Airport Clinic serves a
2 critical role in the provision of emergency services in Los
3 Angeles County.

4 (b) In the event of a disaster, terrorist attack, or other major
5 event at the Los Angeles International Airport, the Centinela
6 Airport Clinic's strategic proximity to the airport provides an
7 indispensable emergency center for triage and basic life support
8 levels of emergency care.

9 (c) The Centinela Airport Clinic is the first freestanding
10 ambulance receiving facility in California approved by a local
11 emergency medical services agency to receive 911 telephone
12 system basic life support patients.

13 (d) The Centinela Airport Clinic is located in a geographic
14 area that has a critical shortage of available emergency room
15 services due to the closure of Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center
16 and service changes at King Drew Medical Center.

17 (e) The Centinela Airport Clinic currently is being reimbursed
18 at urgent care rates for 911 telephone system transport patients
19 and these rates fall below the cost of treating these patients.

20 (f) The Centinela Airport Clinic cannot continue to receive
21 911 transport patients for the 2005 calendar year and thereafter at
22 reimbursement rates that do not match the acuity level of the
23 patients.

24 SEC. 2. Section 1254.3 is added to the Health and Safety
25 Code, to read:

26 1254.3. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the department
27 shall issue a special permit to the Centinela Airport Clinic to
28 allow its operation as an emergency receiving center. The permit
29 shall, for all purposes, including private and government
30 reimbursement, grant to the clinic status equivalent to that of a

1 contiguous emergency department of a general acute care
2 hospital if the clinic meets all of the following requirements:

3 (1) Complies with all requirements applicable to a general
4 acute care hospital emergency department, except that as an
5 emergency receiving center, it may be a separate freestanding
6 facility and not contiguous to a general acute care hospital.

7 (2) Is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

8 (3) Maintains laboratory service capable of providing
9 necessary radiology services.

10 (4) Is staffed by licensed physicians and surgeons who have
11 medical staff privileges at a general acute care hospital and
12 access to the general acute care hospital's on-call panel.

13 (5) Is staffed by licensed nurses in compliance with Section
14 1276.4.

15 (6) Is capable of transferring patients in need of a higher level
16 of care to an appropriate hospital.

17 (7) Provides data to the department and the Emergency
18 Medical Services Authority to enable monitoring of the success
19 of the Centinela Airport Clinic, including the following
20 information:

21 (A) Acuity levels of patients.

22 (B) Patient transfer times to a higher level of care, measured
23 from the time of the decision to transfer, to the time the patient is
24 in route to the receiving hospital.

25 (C) The number of higher level of care transfers conducted
26 through the 911 telephone system.

27 (b) The department shall report to the Legislature on or before
28 May 1, 2009, about the effect that Centinela Airport Clinic has
29 had on the quality of emergency health care services provided to
30 the community served by the clinic.

31 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
32 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety
33 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go
34 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

35 Notwithstanding that the Centinela Airport Clinic provides
36 essential emergency care services to a geographic region that is
37 facing a critical shortage in available emergency care services,
38 the Centinela Airport Clinic will be unable to continue serving as
39 a basic life support ambulance receiving center for the 2005
40 calendar year and thereafter if reimbursement continues to fall

- 1 short of the cost of treating patients. Therefore, in order to ensure
- 2 the viability of the clinic by increasing reimbursement rates to
- 3 match the level of care provided as soon as possible, it is
- 4 necessary that this act take effect immediately.