

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 27, 2001

SENATE BILL

No. 336

Introduced by Senator Ortiz

February 20, 2001

~~An act to amend Section 122405 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to hepatitis C. An act to amend Section 120500 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to communicable disease.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 336, as amended, Ortiz. ~~Hepatitis C~~ Venereal diseases.

Existing law imposes various duties on the State Department of Health Services and local health officers with respect to the prevention and control of venereal diseases. Existing law defines "venereal diseases," for purposes of these provisions, to mean syphilis, gonorrhea, chancroid, lymphopathia venereum, granuloma inguinale, and chlamydia.

This bill would provide that, for purposes of provisions relating to local health officers and at the option of local health officers, "venereal diseases" would also include acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), genital herpes, hepatitis B, trichomonas, and the human papilloma virus (HPV).

~~Existing law contains various legislative findings, declarations, and statements of intent with respect to hepatitis C, including a statement of intent that the Legislature urge the State Department of Health Services to make funds available to community-based nonprofit organizations for education and outreach with respect to the hepatitis C virus.~~

~~This bill would instead declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to make funds available to local public health jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations to develop a cost-effective system of care for those individuals diagnosed with hepatitis C. It would also declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to develop an outreach and education program with respect to hepatitis C.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 ~~SECTION 1.—Section 122405 of the Health and Safety Code~~
 2 ~~is~~
 3 ~~SECTION 1. Section 120500 of the Health and Safety Code is~~
 4 ~~amended to read:~~
 5 ~~120500. As used in the Communicable Disease Prevention~~
 6 ~~and Control Act (Section 27) “venereal diseases” means syphilis,~~
 7 ~~gonorrhea, chancroid, lymphopathia venereum, granuloma~~
 8 ~~inguinale, and chlamydia. For purposes of provisions relating to~~
 9 ~~local health officers and at the option of local health officers,~~
 10 ~~“venereal diseases” may also include acquired immune deficiency~~
 11 ~~syndrome (AIDS), genital herpes, hepatitis B, trichomonas, and~~
 12 ~~the human papilloma virus (HPV).~~
 13 ~~amended to read:~~
 14 ~~122405.—The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the~~
 15 ~~following:~~
 16 ~~(a) Hepatitis C is classified as a silent killer, where no~~
 17 ~~recognizable signs or symptoms occur until severe liver damage~~
 18 ~~has occurred.~~
 19 ~~(b) Hepatitis C has been characterized by the World Health~~
 20 ~~Organization as a disease of primary concern to humanity.~~
 21 ~~(c) Studies indicate that 1.8 percent of the population, nearly 4~~
 22 ~~million Americans, carry the virus HCV that causes hepatitis C. In~~
 23 ~~California, as many as 500,000 individuals may be carriers and~~
 24 ~~could develop the debilitating and potentially deadly liver disease~~
 25 ~~associated with hepatitis C in their lifetime. An expert panel,~~
 26 ~~convened in March by the National Institutes of Health (NIH),~~
 27 ~~estimated that 30,000 acute new infections occur each year in the~~
 28 ~~United States, and only 25 to 30 percent of those are diagnosed.~~



1 ~~Current data sources indicate that 8,000 to 10,000 Americans die~~
2 ~~from hepatitis C each year.~~

3 ~~(d) Studies also indicate that 39.4 percent of male inmates and~~
4 ~~54.5 percent of female inmates in California correctional facilities~~
5 ~~have hepatitis C, 26 times higher than the general population.~~
6 ~~Upon their release from prison, these inmates present a significant~~
7 ~~health risk to the general population of California.~~

8 ~~(e) It is the intent of the Legislature to study the adequacy of the~~
9 ~~health care delivery system as it pertains to hepatitis C.~~

10 ~~(f) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to make~~
11 ~~funds available to local public health jurisdictions and nonprofit~~
12 ~~organizations to develop a cost-effective system of care for those~~
13 ~~individuals diagnosed with hepatitis C.~~

14 ~~(g) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to~~
15 ~~develop an outreach and education program with respect to~~
16 ~~hepatitis C.~~

