

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 27, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2001

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2001

SENATE BILL

No. 370

**Introduced by Senator Ortiz
(Principal coauthor: Senator Vasconcellos)
(Coauthor: Senator Perata)**

February 21, 2001

An act to add Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 9120) to Chapter 2 of Division 8.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to seniors, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 370, as amended, Ortiz. Seniors: injury prevention program.

Existing law requires the California Department of Aging, among other things, to administer the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act that establishes various programs that serve older individuals, including aging informational and educational programs.

This bill would establish the Program for Injury Prevention ~~and Education~~ *in the Home Environment*, under which the department, through the Senior Housing and Information Support Center in the department, would be required to award 2 grants to eligible local level entities for injury prevention information and educational programs and services.

The bill would appropriate \$315,000 from the General Fund to the department to be expended for purposes of the program.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The prevalence of falls by older persons is a serious public
4 health concern. One in three persons over the age of 65 years
5 experiences one or more falls each year.

6 (b) The chances that a fall will result in hospitalization or death
7 increases dramatically for persons 80 years of age and older.

8 (c) When various factors related to the aging process, such as
9 balance, vision, hearing, medications, or health conditions, which
10 in and of themselves can lead to falls, are combined with
11 environmental hazards such as loose, slippery, or irregular
12 walking surfaces, poor lighting, and lack of basic physical
13 supports, the likelihood of falls significantly increases.

14 (d) Assessment, consultation, and simple home modifications
15 can prevent many accidents, help people avoid disruptive
16 relocation, and minimize the need for costly personal or
17 institutional care.

18 (e) Current law and public efforts related to injury prevention
19 and home modification are inadequate or nonexistent in most
20 California communities.

21 SEC. 2. Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 9120) is added
22 to Chapter 2 of Division 8.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code,
23 to read:

24
25 Article 2.5. Program for Injury Prevention ~~and Education~~ in
26 *the Home Environment*
27

28 9120. This article shall be known and may be cited as the
29 Program for Injury Prevention ~~and Education~~ in the Home
30 Environment.

31 9120.5 For purposes of this article, the following definitions
32 apply:

33 (a) "Senior" means any person aged 65 years or older.

34 (b) "Person with a disability" is defined as that term is defined
35 by regulations established pursuant to Section 504 of the federal
36 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1992 (29 U.S.C. Sec.
37 12101 et seq.), and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of
38 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.).



1 9121. The Program for Injury Prevention ~~and Education~~ *in*
2 *the Home Environment* is hereby established. The department,
3 through the Senior Housing and Information Support Center in the
4 department, shall provide grants to eligible local level entities for
5 injury prevention information and education programs and
6 services pursuant to this article for the purpose of increasing the
7 awareness and prevention of injuries.

8 9122. The department may provide a program grant to an
9 eligible local public agency or nonprofit organization for the
10 services specified in Section 9123 and ~~any combination of~~ *for* the
11 following services:

12 (a) Provision of information and education regarding injury
13 prevention to seniors and persons with disabilities living in the
14 community.

15 (b) Comprehensive assessment of individual injury prevention
16 needs.

17 (c) Consultation and instruction in the behavioral, physical,
18 and environmental aspects of injury prevention.

19 (d) Mitigation of behavioral and physical factors.

20 9123. (a) The Program for Injury Prevention ~~and Education~~
21 *in the Home Environment* shall include funding for injury
22 prevention needs, including injury prevention equipment and
23 activities as well as material and labor costs, for ~~persons~~
24 *homeowners and renters* meeting income requirements
25 established pursuant to subdivision (d). A local level entity
26 selected to participate in the program shall comply with all of the
27 requirements of this section in implementing the program.

28 (b) Equipment and activities covered under the program shall
29 include all of the following:

30 (1) Grab bars, nonskid surfaces, shower seats, and transfer
31 benches.

32 ~~(2) Handrails and lever handles.~~

33 (2) *Indoor and outdoor handrails.*

34 (3) Reconfiguration of furniture and other elements of the
35 physical home environment to reduce hazards.

36 ~~(4) Minor repairs to stairs, railings, thresholds, and other~~
37 ~~hazardous areas.~~

38 (c) The payment for injury prevention equipment and ~~activities~~
39 *services* shall not exceed a seven hundred dollar (\$700) maximum
40 allowance per ~~person~~ *household*.



1 ~~(d) Only persons receiving benefits under the federal~~
2 ~~Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for~~
3 ~~the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (SSI/SSP) are eligible for the injury~~
4 ~~prevention equipment and activities described in this section.~~

5 *(d) Eligibility for equipment and services, as described in this*
6 *section, shall be limited to families, households, and individuals*
7 *whose incomes do not exceed 80 percent of the county median*
8 *income, with adjustments for family and household size.*

9 9124. (a) The department, in consultation with groups,
10 including, but not limited to, the State and Local Injury Control
11 section of the State Department of Health Services, National
12 Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification,
13 ~~Edward R. Roybal Centers for Research on~~ *Institute for Applied*
14 *Gerontology*, Senior Injury Prevention Project of Alameda
15 County, and the San Francisco Community Home and Injury
16 Prevention Project for Seniors, shall develop training and
17 assessment tools necessary for carrying out this article.

18 (b) The department shall establish service standards that ensure
19 that members of the population needing services under this article
20 are identified and that the services provided assist them in living
21 safely in their homes and apartments. The department shall award
22 grants based upon compliance with these standards. The standards
23 shall include, but not be limited to, a service planning process that
24 is target-population based and includes both of the following:

25 (1) A determination of the number of clients to be served and
26 the programs and services that will be provided to meet the injury
27 prevention needs of those clients.

28 (2) Plans for services including outreach, design of injury
29 prevention services, coordination, and access to education and
30 assessment services.

31 9125. (a) The director shall establish a methodology for
32 awarding grants under this article, in consultation with groups
33 described in subdivision (a) of Section 9124. The director shall
34 consult with these groups to develop criteria for the award of
35 grants and the identification of specific performance measures.

36 (b) The criteria to be considered in the award of grants shall
37 include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

38 (1) The description of a comprehensive strategic plan for
39 providing outreach, prevention, intervention, and evaluation in a
40 cost appropriate manner.



1 (2) ~~The willingness and ability of the local level entities to~~
2 ~~collaborate with other local entities that are knowledgeable and~~
3 ~~experienced in senior and disabled injury prevention, as well as~~
4 ~~local public health agencies, emergency medical services, and~~
5 ~~other similar entities.~~ *engage in collaborations with local entities*
6 *for purposes of program coordination, including, but not limited*
7 *to, public and private nonprofit agencies that are experienced in*
8 *injury prevention services, home modification services, home*
9 *safety services, and services for seniors and persons with*
10 *disabilities.*

11 (3) The ability of local level entities to gather and utilize other
12 resources to supplant funding provided by the department.

13 (4) Demonstrated proficiency in, and awareness of, relevant
14 issues in working with senior and disabled populations,
15 particularly in relation to home modification and injury
16 prevention.

17 (5) The description of the local population to be served, the
18 ability to administer an effective service program, and the degree
19 to which local agencies and advocates will support and collaborate
20 with program efforts.

21 (6) The geographical representation of urban, rural, northern,
22 central, and southern California regions.

23 (7) The provision of a local match in funds.

24 (c) The funding provided pursuant to this article shall be
25 sufficient to provide injury prevention education and assessment
26 services and equipment and activities necessary for injury
27 prevention in the home.

28 SEC. 3. (a) The sum of three hundred fifteen thousand
29 dollars (\$315,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund
30 to the California Department of Aging to be expended for purposes
31 of the Program for Injury Prevention ~~and Education in the Home~~
32 *Environment* established pursuant to Article 2.5 (commencing
33 with Section 9120) of Chapter 2 of Division 8.5 of the Welfare and
34 Institutions Code.

35 (b) Funds appropriation made pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
36 be expended to fund two grants to eligible local public agencies or
37 nonprofit organizations in an amount not to exceed one hundred
38 and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) each.



- 1 (c) No more than five percent of the funds appropriated to the
- 2 department shall be used for administrative purposes.

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