

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1328**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Simitian**

February 21, 2003

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~~An act to add Section 5600.95 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health. An act relating to state funds, and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1328, as amended, Simitian. ~~Mental health: simplification of accounting and reporting requirements~~ *State budget: nonprofit vendors.*

*Under the California Constitution, funds may only be drawn from the State Treasury through an appropriation made by law and upon a Controller's duly drawn warrant.*

*This bill would appropriate to the Controller from the General Fund and any appropriate special fund an amount no greater than that necessary to enable the Controller to compensate any nonprofit vendor who contracted with the state prior to July 1, 2003, for goods delivered or services rendered for a term that includes any portion of the 2003–04 fiscal year until the date that the Budget Act of 2003 is enacted.*

~~Existing law provides for mental health services to be provided through various programs, many of which are administered by the counties and the State Department of Mental Health.~~

~~This bill would, to the extent that costs can be absorbed by funds budgeted to the department in the annual Budget Act, as specified, require the State Department of Mental Health, in consultation with affected parties, to examine problematic reporting requirements for~~

~~various mental health programs and to convene a workgroup to make recommendations to modify these requirements to reduce unnecessary paperwork.~~

~~This bill would require the workgroup to report to the Legislature its recommendations no later than January 1, 2005, including recommendations for statutory changes necessary to reduce unnecessary and duplicative reporting requirements.~~

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

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

1 ~~SECTION 1.—(a) The Legislature finds and declares both of~~  
2 ~~SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated from the General~~  
3 ~~Fund and any appropriate special fund to the Controller, and the~~  
4 ~~Controller may expend, an amount no greater than that necessary~~  
5 ~~to enable the Controller to compensate any nonprofit vendor who~~  
6 ~~contracted with the state prior to July 1, 2003, for goods delivered~~  
7 ~~or services rendered for a term that includes any portion of the~~  
8 ~~2003–04 fiscal year, until the date that the Budget Act of 2003 is~~  
9 ~~enacted.~~

10 ~~the following:~~

11 ~~(1) There exist multiple reporting requirements for providers~~  
12 ~~of mental health services.~~

13 ~~(2) The reporting requirements may result in excessive~~  
14 ~~amounts of paperwork and reporting burdens on mental health~~  
15 ~~providers. These multiple reporting requirements also can be~~  
16 ~~inconsistent, duplicative, and expensive, thereby resulting in~~  
17 ~~increased cost-of-service delivery and a reduction in available~~  
18 ~~services.~~

19 ~~(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to~~  
20 ~~maximize the use of scarce mental health dollars for direct services~~  
21 ~~and to minimize the paperwork required for providers, consistent~~  
22 ~~with the existence of sufficient accountability for the use of those~~  
23 ~~dollars.~~

24 ~~SEC. 2. Section 5600.95 is added to the Welfare and~~  
25 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~

26 ~~5600.95.—(a) Subject to subdivision (c), the State Department~~  
27 ~~of Mental Health shall, in consultation with parties affected by this~~  
28 ~~section and in order to seek consistency in reporting requirements~~



1 ~~for mental health services to the maximum extent feasible,~~  
2 ~~examine problematic reporting requirements imposed by local~~  
3 ~~mental health agencies and the department on community mental~~  
4 ~~health service providers.~~

5 ~~(b) (1) Subject to subdivision (c), the department shall~~  
6 ~~convene a workgroup consisting of representatives from the~~  
7 ~~department, the California Mental Health Directors Association,~~  
8 ~~and mental health service providers. The Legislature encourages~~  
9 ~~the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to participate~~  
10 ~~in the workgroup.~~

11 ~~(2) The workgroup shall review some of the more problematic~~  
12 ~~reporting requirements for mental health services and develop~~  
13 ~~recommendations to modify state and county reporting~~  
14 ~~requirements, where appropriate and feasible, in order to reduce~~  
15 ~~unnecessary paperwork. During its deliberations, the workgroup~~  
16 ~~shall, as appropriate, consult with parties affected by this section,~~  
17 ~~including, but not limited to, consumers and mental health client~~  
18 ~~advocates.~~

19 ~~(3) The workgroup shall make its recommendations available~~  
20 ~~to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature~~  
21 ~~no later than January 1, 2005. The recommendations may include~~  
22 ~~statutory changes that would further reduce unnecessary and~~  
23 ~~duplicative reporting requirements.~~

24 ~~(e) (1) The department shall implement subdivisions (a) and~~  
25 ~~(b) only to the extent that the costs of the activities can be absorbed~~  
26 ~~by the funds budgeted to the department in the annual Budget Act.~~

27 ~~(2) The department may choose not to implement subdivision~~  
28 ~~(b), and to implement only subdivision (a), if the cost of~~  
29 ~~implementing only one of the two subdivisions can be absorbed by~~  
30 ~~the funds budgeted to the department in the annual Budget Act.~~

31 ~~(3) In making determinations regarding implementation~~  
32 ~~pursuant to this subdivision, the department shall consider the~~  
33 ~~potential cost savings from the consolidation and elimination of~~  
34 ~~paperwork requirements that may be achieved by implementation~~  
35 ~~of this section.~~

