

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 12, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 4, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1591**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chan**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Jones, and Liu)**

February 22, 2005

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An act to amend Section 14132.41 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1591, as amended, Chan. Medi-Cal: nurse practitioners.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Services, pursuant to which medical benefits are provided to public assistance recipients and certain other low-income persons. Existing law provides that services provided by a certified nurse practitioner are covered under the Medi-Cal program, and requires the department to permit a certified family nurse practitioner or a certified pediatric nurse practitioner to bill Medi-Cal independently for his or her services.

This bill would, instead, require that the department permit any certified nurse practitioner to bill for these services.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14132.41 of the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code is amended to read:

1 14132.41. (a) Services provided by a certified nurse  
2 practitioner shall be covered under this chapter to the extent  
3 mandated by federal law, and subject to utilization controls. The  
4 department shall permit a certified nurse practitioner to bill  
5 Medi-Cal independently for his or her services. If a certified  
6 nurse practitioner chooses to bill Medi-Cal independently for his  
7 or her services, the department shall make payment directly to  
8 the certified nurse practitioner.  
9 (b) For purposes of this section, “certified” means nationally  
10 board-certified in a recognized specialty.