

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2006

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

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