

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 158**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ma**

January 18, 2007

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An act relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 158, as introduced, Ma. Public health.

Existing law establishes a Legislative Task Force on Diabetes and Obesity, consisting of specified members, to study the factors contributing to the high rates of diabetes and obesity in Latinos, African-Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans in this country, and declares that the task force is to prepare a report containing recommendations regarding ways to reduce the incidence of those debilitating conditions in these ethnic groups.

Existing law establishes various public health programs administered by the State Department of Health Services, with administration of these programs to be transferred to the State Department of Public Health on July 1, 2007.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would, among other things, establish a program, administered by the State Department of Public Health, to provide education, outreach, counseling, and social services to ethnic populations that are at high risk of hepatitis and diabetes.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Asian Pacific Islander Americans make up more than
- 4 one-half of the 1.4 million hepatitis B virus (HBV) carriers in the
- 5 United States; 1 out of 10 are chronically infected.
- 6 (b) Liver cancer that is primarily caused by HBV is the leading
- 7 cause of cancer death among Asian Pacific Islander men living in
- 8 California and is the most significant health disparity between
- 9 Asian Pacific Islanders and Caucasians.
- 10 (c) Chinese Americans have a five to six times higher risk for
- 11 liver cancer caused by HBV than Caucasian Americans.
- 12 (d) Korean Americans have an eight times higher risk for liver
- 13 cancer caused by HBV than Caucasian Americans.
- 14 (e) Vietnamese Americans have a 13 times higher risk for liver
- 15 cancer caused by HBV than Caucasian Americans.
- 16 (f) African-Americans (10.3 percent) and Native Americans
- 17 (9.3 percent) living in California have higher rates of diabetes
- 18 compared to Caucasians (5.6 percent).
- 19 (g) Hispanic/Latino Americans are 1.7 times more likely to have
- 20 diabetes compared to Caucasians.
- 21 (h) Gestational diabetes occurs more frequently among
- 22 Hispanic/Latino Americans, African-Americans, and Native
- 23 Americans.
- 24 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
- 25 that would do all of the following:
- 26 (a) Establish a program to provide education, outreach,
- 27 counseling, and social services to ethnic populations that are at
- 28 high risk of hepatitis and diabetes and to individuals among those
- 29 populations suffering from these diseases.
- 30 (b) Utilize existing programs and systems operated by public
- 31 and not-for-profit organizations to provide the services described
- 32 in subdivision (a).
- 33 (c) Direct the State Department of Public Health to make and
- 34 administer grants to the public and not-for-profit organizations
- 35 from funds appropriated by the Legislature or donated to the state
- 36 in order to provide these services.

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