

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 5, 2007  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2007  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 383**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Tran**

February 15, 2007

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An act to add Section 14132.23 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 383, as amended, Tran. Medi-Cal: orthodontic services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income persons receive health care services. Existing law requires that emergency and essential diagnostic and restorative dental services are covered benefits under Medi-Cal, except as specified, subject to certain limitations.

This bill would, *commencing July 1, 2008, notwithstanding these provisions*, require that the active and retentive phases of orthodontic treatment covered under Medi-Cal be reimbursed on a quarterly basis pursuant to a specified formula, *only until specified standards are implemented by the department, at which time the bill would exempt only covered retentive phase orthodontic services from those provisions*.

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 14132.23 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:  
3 14132.23. ~~Notwithstanding~~ (a) (1) *Except as set forth in*  
4 *paragraph (1), and notwithstanding any other provision of law or*  
5 *regulation, the active and retentive phases of orthodontic treatment*  
6 *covered under the Medi-Cal program shall be reimbursed on a*  
7 *quarterly basis, as determined by dividing the sum of the authorized*  
8 *treatment allowances by the estimated number of three-month*  
9 *periods that the patient's treatment will require, subject to the*  
10 *department's utilization controls.*  
11 (2) *The retentive phase of orthodontic treatment shall be*  
12 *reimbursed pursuant to paragraph (1) only until the department*  
13 *implements the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature,*  
14 *as published by the American Dental Association in its Current*  
15 *Dental Terminology manual, at which time paragraph (1) shall*  
16 *not apply to retentive phase orthodontic services that are covered*  
17 *under the Medi-Cal program.*  
18 (b) *This section shall become operative on July 1, 2008.*