

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 3, 2008

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1606**

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**Introduced by Senator Yee**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Wolk)

February 22, 2008

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An act to add Section 5349.3 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to assisted outpatient treatment services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1606, as amended, Yee. Assisted outpatient treatment services.

Existing law, Laura's Law, allows courts in participating counties to order a person suffering from a mental illness to undergo assisted outpatient treatment if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the requirements for assisted outpatient treatment are met.

This bill would require the State Department of Mental Health, in consultation with a working group, comprised as specified, to conduct a study of individuals whose mental health needs are not currently being met because they do not meet the assisted outpatient treatment requirements but who have mental health needs that may not be met through voluntary services. This bill would require the department to report its findings to the Legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2010.

*This bill would require that the department accept funds from private nonprofit entities and undertake the study upon certification by the Department of Finance that sufficient private funds have been received to fully offset all of the costs of the study.*

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 5349.3 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 5349.3. (a) The department shall conduct a study of individuals  
4 whose mental health needs are not currently being met because  
5 they do not meet the eligibility criteria under this article, but who  
6 have current mental health needs that may not be met through  
7 access to voluntary services. The study shall include the  
8 characteristics of this population and barriers to their access to  
9 mental health services.

10 (b) To complete the study, the department shall consult with a  
11 working group to be comprised of the representatives from groups,  
12 including, but not limited to, the following:

13 (1) State and county mental health programs.

14 (2) County mental health providers and private providers of  
15 local mental health services and mental health outreach services.

16 (3) Advocacy groups for the mentally ill and their families.

17 (4) Other entities, as appropriate.

18 (c) The department shall report the findings of the study,  
19 including any recommendations for improving access to services  
20 for this population, to the Legislature and the Governor no later  
21 than January 1, 2010.

22 (d) The department ~~may~~ *shall* accept funds from private  
23 nonprofit entities to accomplish the purposes of this section. *The*  
24 *department shall undertake the study upon certification by the*  
25 *Department of Finance that sufficient private funds have been*  
26 *received to fully offset all of the costs associated with the study.*