

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2072

Introduced by Assembly Member Mendoza

February 18, 2010

An act to ~~amend Section 124119.5 of~~ *add Section 124121* to the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2072, as amended, Mendoza. Hearing screening: resources and services.

Existing law, the Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening, Tracking, and Intervention Act, requires every general acute care hospital with licensed perinatal services to offer every newborn a hearing screening test for the identification of hearing loss, as specified, and provide written information on the availability of community resources and services for children with hearing loss to the parents of those who are diagnosed with a hearing loss.

Existing law, the California Early Start Intervention Services Act, commonly known as the Early Start program, provides various early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have disabilities to enhance their development and to minimize the potential for developmental delays.

This bill would, ~~instead provide~~ *also require that the parents of a newborn or infant diagnosed with a hearing loss receive* written information ~~shall be on~~ *on* all communication; options for children with hearing loss; ~~and that the information shall be provided to parents when their newborn or infant fails the hearing screening, by an audiologist or other related professional at a followup appointment to diagnose~~

after diagnosis with a hearing loss, and at entry into the Early Start program by the Early Start Program when a child enters the program and when a child is referred to the program by a state agency. It would also specify additional items of information to be provided pursuant to these requirements that the state shall not incur the cost of or implement this bill.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 124121 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 124121. (a) Parents of all newborns and infants diagnosed
- 4 with a hearing loss shall also be provided written information on
- 5 all communication options for children with hearing loss,
- 6 including, but not limited to, information about deaf and
- 7 hard-of-hearing organizations, agencies and early intervention
- 8 centers, and educational programs. The information shall be
- 9 provided:
- 10 (1) By an audiologist or other related professional at a followup
- 11 appointment after diagnosis with a hearing loss.
- 12 (2) By the Early Start Program, provided for pursuant to the
- 13 California Early Intervention Services Act (Title 14 (commencing
- 14 with Section 95000) of the Government Code) when a newborn
- 15 and infant enters the program and when the newborn and infant
- 16 is referred to the program by a state agency.
- 17 (b) The state shall not incur any cost, nor shall the state be
- 18 involved in the implementation of this section.
- 19 ~~SECTION 1. Section 124119.5 of the Health and Safety Code~~
- 20 ~~is amended to read:~~
- 21 ~~124119.5. (a) Parents of all newborns and infants shall be~~
- 22 ~~provided written information on all communication options for~~
- 23 ~~children with hearing loss, including those provided in accordance~~
- 24 ~~with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20~~
- 25 ~~U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.), through the reporting and tracking system~~
- 26 ~~followup procedures and at each of the following events:~~
- 27 ~~(1) When a newborn or infant fails the hearing screening.~~
- 28 ~~(2) At a followup appointment with an audiologist to diagnose~~
- 29 ~~a hearing loss.~~

1 ~~(3) At entry into the Early Start program, provided for pursuant~~
2 ~~to Title 14 (commencing with Section 95000) of the Government~~
3 ~~Code.~~

4 ~~(b) Information provided pursuant to subdivision (a) shall~~
5 ~~include, but is not limited to, listings of local and statewide~~
6 ~~nonprofit deaf and hard-of-hearing organizations, agencies and~~
7 ~~early intervention centers, educational programs, parent support~~
8 ~~organizations affiliated with deafness, and programs offered~~
9 ~~through the State Department of Social Services, Office of Deaf~~
10 ~~Access, State Department of Developmental Services, and the~~
11 ~~State Department of Education.~~