

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2354

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez

February 19, 2010

~~An act to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 128570) to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health. An act relating to public health.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2354, as amended, V. Manuel Perez. ~~Community Health Workers: Promotores. Promotores: medically underserved communities: federal grants.~~

Existing law establishes training and certification programs for various healing arts professionals including, among others, nurses, midwives, occupational therapists, dietitians, and social workers.

~~This bill would require the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with the University of California, to establish a technical advisory committee to study the current use of promotores in supporting positive health outcomes throughout California and the funding resources that support the work of promotores. This bill would also encourage the department to incorporate the use of promotores for programs requiring outreach or involving strategies that seek to increase access to care, health education, prevention, and the creation of healthier communities.~~

This bill would require the State Department of Public Health to assess the grants to promote positive health behaviors and outcomes available pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act for funding opportunities related to the use of promotores in medically underserved communities and report on this assessment to the fiscal and health policy committees of the Legislature by April 1, 2011, with recommendations for attaining and maximizing federal funding. This bill would also require the department to rely upon past research about the efficacy of promotores and not permit the department to conduct new research.

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. (a) *The State Department of Public Health shall*
 2 *assess the grants to promote positive health behaviors and*
 3 *outcomes available pursuant to Section 399V of the federal Patient*
 4 *Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) for*
 5 *funding opportunities related to the use of promotores, also known*
 6 *as community health workers, in medically underserved*
 7 *communities. The department shall report on this assessment to*
 8 *the fiscal and health policy committees of the Legislature by April*
 9 *1, 2011, with recommendations for attaining and maximizing*
 10 *federal funding.*

11 (b) *The assessment made by the department pursuant to*
 12 *subdivision (a) shall rely upon past research about the efficacy of*
 13 *promotores and the department may not conduct new research.*

14 (c) (1) *A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)*
 15 *shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the*
 16 *Government Code.*

17 (2) *Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this*
 18 *section is repealed on April 1, 2015.*

19 ~~SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~
 20 ~~following:~~

21 ~~(a) Promotores, also known as community health workers, peer~~
 22 ~~leaders, or health advocates, serve as a bridge between the~~
 23 ~~community and the public health care system, providing health~~
 24 ~~education, health promotion, prevention, informational counseling,~~
 25 ~~and referral information, as well as resources in a manner that is~~

1 culturally and linguistically appropriate. Promotores function as
2 cultural brokers who possess a unique understanding of those,
3 often difficult to reach, communities they serve.

4 (b) Integrating promotores and community health workers into
5 health programs and strategies has been documented as being
6 associated with improvements in access to health care, health
7 status, and health screening behavior. The role of promotores,
8 however, expands beyond disease-related functions into community
9 health. Promotores are critical in creating health communities,
10 improving the built environment, increasing awareness about
11 community factors affecting health, and in creating mechanisms
12 for families, and particularly low-income families, to learn, thrive,
13 and participate in and transform their communities.

14 (c) In 2009, through Assembly Concurrent Resolution 75
15 (Chapter 125 of the Resolutions of 2009), the Legislature
16 recognized and applauded the contributions of promotores in
17 improving community health and well-being, advocacy, and
18 cost-effective prevention by declaring October 2009 as California
19 Promotores Month.

20 (d) Ongoing federal efforts to address health care affordability,
21 accessibility, and use have identified the promotores model as an
22 effective practice and have committed financial support to help
23 implement the model. Current federal law includes funding and
24 support for programs that could employ promotores on a broad
25 scale.

26 (e) As increased federal public health funding becomes available
27 to California, specifically for the increased use of promotores and
28 for programs that employ promotores, it is incumbent upon the
29 state to have a comprehensive statewide strategy to target resources
30 and invest funding into proven programs, successful models, and
31 the best practices. Accordingly, a comprehensive assessment of
32 the current use of and funding for promotores is needed to guide
33 the state's future investments.

34 SEC. 2. Article 6 (commencing with Section 128570) is added
35 to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety
36 Code, to read:

1 Article 6. ~~Promotores Development Program Study~~

2
3 ~~128570. (a) The State Department of Public Health, in~~
4 ~~consultation with the University of California, shall conduct a~~
5 ~~comprehensive assessment of the current use of promotores in~~
6 ~~supporting positive health outcomes throughout California,~~
7 ~~including, but not limited to, in rural communities, and the funding~~
8 ~~resources that support the work of promotores.~~

9 ~~(b) This assessment shall include all of the following:~~

10 ~~(1) An examination of promotores programs throughout~~
11 ~~California that identifies best practices in at least the areas of~~
12 ~~recruitment, hiring, training, compensation, scope of work,~~
13 ~~supervision, program design and implementation, successful~~
14 ~~programs, and resources.~~

15 ~~(2) The federal, state, and local agencies that operate promotores~~
16 ~~programs, use or contract for promotores, or provide resources to~~
17 ~~organizations, including, but not limited to, nonprofit organizations,~~
18 ~~that support and expand the work of promotores.~~

19 ~~(3) An examination of previous studies that evaluated~~
20 ~~promotores programs and have identified model programs or best~~
21 ~~practices.~~

22 ~~(e) The department shall convene a technical advisory committee~~
23 ~~to help guide and design this assessment. This advisory committee~~
24 ~~shall include representatives from the following:~~

25 ~~(1) Community-based organizations with experience in training~~
26 ~~and hiring promotores.~~

27 ~~(2) County public health departments.~~

28 ~~(3) Foundations that support promotores programs.~~

29 ~~(4) Primary community care clinics.~~

30 ~~(5) Promotores or community health workers.~~

31 ~~(6) Universities and other academic institutions.~~

32 ~~(7) Other stakeholders the department deems necessary.~~

33 ~~(d) The committee and the department shall use federal funding,~~
34 ~~including, but not limited to, funding from the United States~~
35 ~~Department of Health and Human Services and its Health~~
36 ~~Resources and Services Administration and funding from the~~
37 ~~Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to support the~~
38 ~~development of this assessment.~~

39 ~~SEC. 3. As federal funding is awarded to the states for health~~
40 ~~prevention efforts, the State Department of Public Health is~~

1 ~~encouraged to incorporate the use of promotores for programs~~
2 ~~requiring outreach or involving strategies that seek to increase~~
3 ~~access to care, health education, prevention, and the creation of~~
4 ~~healthier communities.~~

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