

Introduced by Senator Correa

February 17, 2011

An act to add Section 9113.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to seniors.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 529, as introduced, Correa. Seniors: community-based services: long-term care strategic plan.

Under existing law, the California Department of Aging administers various community-based programs for seniors, including adult day health care programs, the Multipurpose Senior Services Program, linkages, and home-delivered meals. Existing law identifies the mission of the department to provide leadership to the area agencies on aging in developing systems of home- and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments.

This bill would require the department, in consultation with the California Commission on Aging, the area agencies on aging, and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, to develop a long-term care strategic plan, as specified, to provide guidance and temporary funding for community-based programs that serve seniors. The bill would require the department to submit the plan to the Legislature by July 1, 2012.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 9113.5 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

9113.5. (a) The department, in consultation with the California Commission on Aging, the area agencies on aging, and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, shall develop a strategic plan to provide guidance and temporary funding for community-based programs that serve seniors, in accordance with this section. The department shall submit the strategic plan to the Legislature by July 1, 2012.

(b) The strategic plan shall address all of the following:

(1) Goals for the state's long-term care system, and statutory and program changes and actions that will be required to achieve those goals, including, but not limited to, the establishment of one or more community-based pilot projects.

(2) Selection of an appropriate agency to manage the process of guiding future decisions regarding long-term care, including appropriate staffing requirements and timelines.

(3) Services and supports that will make it possible for individuals with advanced age or disabilities to remain in their communities and avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

(4) Short-term, medium-range, and long-term programs recommended by in the November 2009 final report "Home and Community-Based Long-Term Care: Recommendations to Improve Access for Californians," prepared for the California Health and Human Services Agency and California Community Choices.

(5) The feasibility of enacting a bond measure to provide the cashflow necessary for a limited period to restore programs that have been decimated by recent budget cuts, are a means to resolve immediate funding problems, and facilitate establishment of a foundation for future long-term care cost reductions.

(c) (1) The requirement for submitting the strategic plan imposed under subdivision (a) is inoperative on January 1, 2016, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

(2) The strategic plan required to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

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