

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 16, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 6, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 357

Introduced by Assembly Member Pan

February 14, 2013

An act to add Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 124167) to Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, and to repeal Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 12693.90) of Part 6.2 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code, relating to child health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 357, as amended, Pan. Children's Health Advisory Board.

Existing law requires the state to implement and administer various child health and disease prevention programs. Existing law establishes the Healthy Families Advisory Board, a 15-member advisory panel appointed by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board. Existing law provides for the transition of children from the Healthy Families Program to Medi-Cal, including the transfer of the Healthy Families Advisory Board to the State Department of Health Care Services.

This bill would repeal the Healthy Families Advisory Board and instead rename and recast the board as the Children's Health Advisory Board, an independent, statewide advisory body charged with developing a vision for children's health in the state, among other tasks. The bill would also provide related legislative findings and declarations.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The health and well-being of California’s children should
4 be among the state’s top priorities, and it is imperative that every
5 child in California has meaningful health coverage with benefits
6 that support healthy growth and development.

7 (b) Children’s health coverage should encompass more than
8 just treatment of diseases and illnesses, but also cover services and
9 care to promote healthy development and well-being.

10 (c) All children should receive care that meets recognized
11 standards of practice.

12 (d) For the first time in history, the current generation of children
13 is likely to be less healthy than their parents and live shorter lives.

14 (e) The incidences and types of chronic disease in children have
15 both increased and changed dramatically over the past four decades.
16 One in five children have a mental health problem, and the number
17 of overweight children has tripled for preschoolers and adolescents
18 and quadrupled for children 6 to 11 years of age, inclusive.

19 (f) Approximately 1.1 million children in California are
20 uninsured, and the quality of children’s health services and access
21 to these services reflect significant disparities in geographic, racial,
22 ethnic, and socioeconomic status.

23 (g) Children with special health care needs are often those who
24 experience the greatest challenges in accessing a variety of the
25 high-quality services they need.

26 (h) The administration and delivery of child health programs is
27 often ineffective, uncoordinated, and incomplete with little
28 accountability for quality.

29 (i) The modern epidemics facing children today have lifelong
30 consequences and present significant costs to the economy. The
31 failure to ensure the health of our children may jeopardize their
32 ability to function effectively as adults and for our state and nation
33 to remain strong and competitive in our global society.

34 SEC. 2. Article 7.5 (commencing with Section 124167) is
35 added to Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and
36 Safety Code, to read:

1 Article 7.5. Children’s Health Advisory Board

2
3 124167. (a) The Healthy Families Advisory Board established
4 by former Section 12693.90 of the Insurance Code is hereby
5 renamed the Children’s Health Advisory Board.

6 (b) The Children’s Health Advisory Board shall be an
7 independent, statewide advisory board that shall develop a vision
8 for children’s health in California, make recommendations on
9 improving child health systems, and set goals and standards for
10 children’s health coverage.

11 (c) The membership of the advisory board shall be composed
12 of the following 15 members:

13 (1) One member who is a licensed, practicing dentist, appointed
14 by the Governor.

15 (2) One representative from a licensed nonprofit primary care
16 clinic, appointed by the Governor.

17 (3) One representative of the mental health provider community,
18 appointed by the Governor.

19 (4) One representative from the health plan community,
20 appointed by the Governor.

21 (5) One representative from the business community, appointed
22 by the Governor.

23 (6) One physician and surgeon who is board certified in the area
24 of family practice medicine, appointed by the Senate Committee
25 on Rules.

26 (7) One representative from a licensed hospital that is on the
27 disproportionate share list maintained by the State Department of
28 Health Care Services, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

29 (8) One representative of the substance abuse provider
30 community, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

31 (9) One representative of the county public health provider
32 community, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

33 (10) One representative from the education community,
34 appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

35 (11) Three representatives from the Medi-Cal population,
36 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

37 (12) One physician and surgeon who is board certified in
38 pediatrics, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

39 (13) One representative from a family with children with special
40 needs, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

1 (d) The advisory board members shall have demonstrated
2 expertise in providing health-related services to children 18 years
3 of age and under, as applicable.

4 (e) The advisory board shall elect, from among its members, its
5 chair.

6 (f) The advisory board's powers and duties shall include, but
7 not be limited to, all of the following:

8 (1) To advise the Director of Health Care Services on all
9 policies, regulations, and operations of the Medi-Cal program
10 *related to providing health care services to children.*

11 (2) To consider all written recommendations of the advisory
12 board and respond in writing when the Director of Health Care
13 Services rejects the advice of the advisory board.

14 (3) To meet at least quarterly, unless deemed unnecessary by
15 the chair.

16 (g) The members of the advisory board shall be reimbursed for
17 all necessary travel expenses associated with the activities of the
18 advisory board.

19 (h) The State Department of Health Care Services shall provide
20 staff assistance to the advisory board.

21 (i) The Legislature does not intend the addition of this section
22 to result in a new board but is instead a continuation of the prior
23 board established by former Section 12693.90 of the Insurance
24 Code, and therefore no new board members shall be appointed
25 until a vacancy occurs.

26 SEC. 3. Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 12693.90) of
27 Part 6.2 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code is repealed.