

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 505

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian

February 20, 2013

An act to add Section 14029.91 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 505, as amended, Nazarian. Medi-Cal: managed care: language assistance services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Under existing law, one of the methods by which Medi-Cal services are provided is pursuant to contracts with various types of managed care plans.

This bill would require the department to require all ~~Medi-Cal~~ managed care plans contracting with the department *to provide Medi-Cal services* to provide language assistance services, which includes interpretation and translation services, to limited-English-proficient enrollees, as defined.

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 14029.91 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:
3 14029.91. (a) The department shall require all ~~Medi-Cal~~
4 managed care plans contracting with the department *to provide*
5 *Medi-Cal services* to provide language assistance services to
6 limited-English-proficient (LEP) enrollees in the following manner:
7 (1) Interpretation services shall be provided in any language on
8 a 24-hour basis at all points of service.
9 (2) Translation services shall be provided to the language groups
10 identified by the department.
11 (b) The department shall determine when an LEP population
12 meets the requirement for translation services using one of the
13 following numeric thresholds:
14 (1) Three thousand *LEP* persons eligible for Medi-Cal reside
15 in the plan’s service area, or 1,000 LEP persons eligible for
16 Medi-Cal reside in a single ~~zip code~~ *ZIP Code*.
17 (2) One thousand five hundred *LEP* persons eligible for
18 Medi-Cal in two contiguous ~~zip codes~~ *ZIP Codes* reside within a
19 health plan’s service area.
20 (c) The department shall make this determination annually and
21 instruct plans, by means of incorporating the requirement into plan
22 contracts, all-plan letters, or similar instructions, the language
23 groups that meet the numeric thresholds.
24 (d) For purposes of this section, a person is “limited English
25 proficient” if he or she speaks English less than very well.

O