

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 540

Introduced by Assembly Member Pan

February 20, 2013

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 540, as amended, Pan. Reporting and tracking of violent deaths.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Public Health, which is responsible for various programs relating to the health and safety of people in the state, including licensing health facilities, regulating food and drug safety, and monitoring and preventing communicable and chronic diseases.

This bill would require the department to establish and maintain the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System. *The bill would further require the department to collect data on violent deaths, as specified, contract with county health departments to collect certain data, and apply for grants to implement these provisions. The bill would also make 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:*

1 (a) Information and data regarding violent deaths can help
2 provide states and communities with a clearer understanding of
3 violent deaths and therefore lead to better prevention of violent
4 deaths.

5 (b) According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention (CDC), in the United States, violence accounts for
7 approximately 51,000 deaths annually. Violent deaths result from
8 the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself,
9 another person, or a group or community, and include suicide,
10 homicide, and legal intervention deaths. Violence adversely affects
11 all Americans, not only through premature death, but also through
12 medical costs and lost productivity.

13 (c) The CDC further notes that the cost of these deaths totaled
14 \$47.2 billion: \$47 billion in work loss costs and \$215 million in
15 medical treatment.

16 (d) In 2002, the National Violent Death Reporting System
17 (NVDRS) was established as a surveillance system that pulls
18 together data on violent deaths. NVDRS collects information from
19 death certificates, coroner or medical examiner reports, police
20 reports, and crime laboratories.

21 (e) NVDRS data informs decisionmakers and program planners
22 about the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of violent deaths
23 in a particular state or community so appropriate prevention efforts
24 can be identified and implemented, and the data facilitates the
25 evaluation of state-based prevention programs and strategies.

26 (f) According to NVDRS, a national system will allow the CDC
27 to provide information for every state to inform their prevention
28 efforts. It will also ensure enhanced information on the national
29 scope of the problem of violent deaths is available to monitor and
30 track trends and to inform national efforts.

31 **SECTION 1.**

32 **SEC. 2.** Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) is added
33 to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety
34 Code, to read:

35
36 Article 3. Electronic Violent Death Reporting System
37

38 131230. (a) The department shall establish and maintain the
39 California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System.

1 ***(b) The department shall collect data on violent deaths as***
2 ***reported from data sources, including, but not limited to, death***
3 ***certificates, law enforcement reports, and coroner or medical***
4 ***examiner reports.***

5 ***(c) The department shall contract with county health***
6 ***departments to collect the data specified in subdivision (b).***

7 ***(d) The department shall apply for grants provided under the***
8 ***National Violent Death Reporting System or the federal Centers***
9 ***for Disease Control and Prevention for purposes of implementing***
10 ***this section.***

11 ***(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit data***
12 ***sources that the department is required to collect, which may***
13 ***include any public agency document that may contain data on***
14 ***violent deaths.***