

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 540**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Pan**

February 20, 2013

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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~~ *authorize* the department to establish and maintain the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System. The bill would further ~~require~~ *authorize* 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:

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

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

15 (c) The CDC further notes that the cost of these deaths totaled  
16 \$47.2 billion: \$47 billion in work loss costs and \$215 million in  
17 medical treatment.

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

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

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

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

1 Article 3. Electronic Violent Death Reporting System

2  
3 131230. (a) The department ~~shall~~ *may* establish and maintain  
4 the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System.

5 (b) The department ~~shall~~ *may* collect data on violent deaths as  
6 reported from data sources, including, but not limited to, death  
7 certificates, law enforcement reports, and coroner or medical  
8 examiner reports.

9 (c) The department ~~shall~~ *may* contract with county health  
10 departments to collect the data specified in subdivision (b).

11 (d) The department ~~shall~~ *may* apply for grants provided under  
12 the National Violent Death Reporting System of the federal Centers  
13 for Disease Control and Prevention for purposes of implementing  
14 this section.

15 (e) The department may accept private or foundation moneys  
16 to implement this section.

17 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit data sources  
18 that the department ~~is required to~~ *may* collect, which may include  
19 any public agency document that may contain data on violent  
20 deaths.