

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 831

Introduced by Assembly Member Bloom

February 21, 2013

~~An act to amend Section 1797.5 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services. An act to add Section 11758.08 to, and to add and repeal Section 11758.07 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to drugs, and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 831, as amended, Bloom. ~~Emergency medical services. Drug overdoses.~~

Existing law establishes various programs for the control of illegal drugs in California and requires the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to place on its Internet Web site specified information on drug overdose trends in California, including county and state death rates, from existing data, in order to ascertain changes in the causes or rates of fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses for the preceding 5 years.

This bill, until January 1, 2016, would establish within the California Health and Human Services Agency, a temporary working group, as specified, to develop a plan to reduce the rate of fatal drug overdoses in the state. The bill would require the temporary working group to make recommendations to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and the Chair of Assembly Committee on Health on or before January 1, 2015.

This bill would establish a grant program within the California Health and Human Services Agency to provide funds for programs related to drug overdose prevention, recognition, and response education, as

specified. The bill would appropriate \$500,000 from the General Fund for this purpose in the 2014–15 fiscal year.

~~Existing law declares the intent of the Legislature to promote the development, accessibility, and provision of emergency medical services, and the policy of this state that people shall be encouraged and trained to assist others at the scene of a medical emergency.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions:~~

Vote: ~~majority~~^{2/3}. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 11758.07 is added to the Health and
2 Safety Code, to read:

3 11758.07. (a) The California Health and Human Services
4 Agency shall convene a temporary working group within the
5 agency to develop a plan to reduce the rate of fatal drug overdoses
6 in the state. Experts and staff from the Office of Emergency
7 Services, State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, State
8 Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS, and any other staff
9 that the Secretary of California Health and Human Services
10 designates may participate in the temporary working group.
11 Additionally, staff from the Medical Board of California and
12 California State Board of Pharmacy may also participate for the
13 purpose of identifying promising practices to reduce accidental
14 drug overdose among patients and other at-risk groups.

15 (b) The secretary may invite other experts to participate in the
16 temporary working group. Their participation shall be
17 uncompensated.

18 (c) The temporary working group shall make recommendations
19 to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and the Chair of
20 the Assembly Committee on Health on or before January 1, 2015.

21 (d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2016,
22 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
23 is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.

24 SEC. 2. Section 11758.08 is added to the Health and Safety
25 Code, to read:

26 11758.08. (a) The California Health and Human Services
27 Agency shall make grants to local agencies from funds

1 *appropriated pursuant to this section for any of the following*
2 *purposes:*

3 *(1) Drug overdose prevention, recognition, and response*
4 *education projects in jails, prisons, drug treatment centers, syringe*
5 *exchange programs, clinics, and other organizations that work*
6 *with or have access to drug users, their families, and communities.*

7 *(2) Drug overdose prevention, recognition, and response*
8 *training for patients and their families when the patient is*
9 *prescribed opiate-based medications for which there is a significant*
10 *risk of overdose.*

11 *(3) Naloxone hydrochloride prescription or distribution projects.*

12 *(4) Development and implementation of policies and projects*
13 *to encourage people, including drug users, to call the 911*
14 *emergency response system when they witness potentially fatal*
15 *drug overdoses.*

16 *(5) Programs to educate Californians over 65 years of age about*
17 *the risks associated with using opiate-based medications, ways to*
18 *prevent overdose, or how to respond if they witness an overdose.*

19 *(6) The production and distribution of targeted or mass media*
20 *materials on drug overdose prevention and response.*

21 *(7) Education and training projects on drug overdose response*
22 *and treatment for emergency services and law enforcement*
23 *personnel, including, but not limited to, volunteer fire and*
24 *emergency services.*

25 *(8) Parent, family, and survivor education and mutual support*
26 *groups.*

27 *(b) In order to control budgets and appropriately limit the*
28 *number of possible applications, the agency may set guidelines*
29 *regarding the prioritization of applications and the types of*
30 *organizations or entities that may apply in a given year.*

31 *(c) The adoption and one readoption of regulations to implement*
32 *this section shall be deemed to be an emergency necessary for the*
33 *immediate preservation of public peace, health, and safety, or the*
34 *general welfare for purposes of Sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of*
35 *the Government Code, and the agency is hereby exempted from*
36 *the requirement that it describe specific facts showing the need*
37 *for immediate action and from review by the Office of*
38 *Administrative Law.*

39 *(d) There is hereby appropriated from the General Fund, in the*
40 *2014–15 fiscal year, five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for*

1 *the purpose of funding the grants provided in subdivision (a).*
2 *Additional funds necessary for the implementation of this section*
3 *in the 2014–15 fiscal year and in later fiscal years may be included*
4 *in the budget appropriation for the California Health and Human*
5 *Services Agency.*

6 ~~SECTION 1. Section 1797.5 of the Health and Safety Code is~~
7 ~~amended to read:~~

8 ~~1797.5. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the~~
9 ~~development, accessibility, and provision of emergency medical~~
10 ~~services to the people of this state.~~

11 ~~(b) Further, it is the policy of this state that people shall be~~
12 ~~encouraged and trained to assist others at the scene of a medical~~
13 ~~emergency. Local governments, agencies, and other organizations~~
14 ~~shall be encouraged to offer training in cardiopulmonary~~
15 ~~resuscitation and lifesaving first aid techniques so that people may~~
16 ~~be adequately trained, prepared, and encouraged to assist others~~
17 ~~immediately.~~