

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1567

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

January 30, 2014

An act to amend Section 1179.1 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to rural health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1567, as introduced, Chávez. Office of Rural Health.

Existing law requires the Secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency, now known as the Secretary of California Health and Human Services, to establish the Office of Rural Health to promote coordinated planning for the delivery of health services in rural California.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1179.1 of the Health and Safety Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 1179.1. (a) ~~The Secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency~~
- 4 *California Health and Human Services* shall establish an Office
- 5 of Rural Health, or an alternative organizational structure, in one
- 6 of the departments of the *California Health and Welfare Human*
- 7 *Services Agency* to promote a strong working relationship between
- 8 state government and local and federal agencies, universities,
- 9 private and public interest groups, rural consumers, health care

1 providers, foundations, and other offices of rural health, as well
2 as to develop health initiatives and maximize the use of existing
3 resources without duplicating existing effort. The office or
4 alternative organizational structure shall serve as a key information
5 and referral source to promote coordinated planning for the delivery
6 of health services in rural California.

7 (b) To the extent funds are appropriated by the Legislature,
8 these efforts may include:

9 (1) Educating the public and recommending appropriate public
10 policies regarding the viability of rural health care in California.

11 (2) Monitoring and working with state and federal agencies to
12 assess the impact of proposed rules and regulations on rural areas.

13 (3) Promoting community involvement and community support
14 in maintaining, rebuilding, and diversifying local health services
15 in rural areas.

16 (4) Encouraging and evaluating the use of advanced
17 communications technology to provide access to health promotion
18 and disease prevention information, specialty expertise, clinical
19 consultation, and continuing education for health professionals.

20 (5) Encouraging the development of regional health care and
21 public health networks and collaborative efforts, including, but
22 not limited to, emergency transportation networks.

23 (6) Working with state and local agencies, universities, and
24 private and public interest groups to promote research on rural
25 health issues.

26 (7) Soliciting the assistance of other offices or programs of
27 rural health in California to carry out the duties of this part.

28 (8) Disseminating information and providing technical
29 assistance to communities, health care providers, and consumers
30 of health care services.

31 (9) Promoting strategies to improve health care professional
32 recruitment and retention in rural areas.

33 (10) Encouraging innovative responses by public and private
34 entities to address rural health issues.