

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1621

Introduced by Assembly Members Lowenthal and Rodriguez

February 6, 2014

An act to add Section 1797.119 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1621, as amended, Lowenthal. Emergency medical services: data and information system.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, governs local emergency medical service systems. The act establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority, which is responsible for the coordination and integration of all state agencies concerning emergency medical services. Existing law also creates the Commission on Emergency Medical Services, and requires the commission to perform various duties regarding the authority and emergency medical services.

Existing law requires the authority to develop planning and implementation guidelines for emergency medical services systems that address data collection and evaluation, among other things. Existing law requires the commission to review and approve regulations, standards, and guidelines developed by the authority.

This bill would require the authority to develop and adopt minimum standards for maintaining and implementing a State Emergency Medical Services Data and Information System (SEMSDIS), which would include, among other things, data and information relating to prehospital care and specialty care, for purposes of determining and monitoring the

quality and effectiveness of the statewide emergency medical system. *The bill would require the authority to develop guidelines and standards for local emergency medical services agencies and local prehospital emergency medical services providers' electronic patient care record systems to ensure compatibility with SEMSDIS.* The bill would require emergency medical services providers and hospitals that receive emergency medical services patients to perform specified tasks concerning SEMSDIS. The bill would require the authority to comply with its provisions on or before ~~January~~ July 1, 2016. *The bill would require the authority to post proposed rules and to notify the public with regard to commenting on the proposed rules, as specified.*

The bill would also require local EMS agencies to submit specified information to the authority. By imposing new duties on local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would provide that all of the above provisions and any rules or regulations adopted pursuant to those provisions would only be implemented to the extent that funds are made available through an appropriation in the annual budget act.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1797.119 is added to the Health and
- 2 Safety Code, to read:
- 3 1797.119. (a) (1) ~~The~~*In order to fulfill the authority's*
- 4 *responsibility to assess emergency medical services and their*
- 5 *effectiveness as required by Section 1797.102, the authority shall*
- 6 *develop a State Emergency Medical Services Data and Information*
- 7 *System (SEMSDIS), and, after approval by the commission, adopt*
- 8 *minimum standards for maintaining and implementing SEMSDIS.*
- 9 (2) SEMSDIS shall include, but not be limited to, data and
- 10 information relating to prehospital care and specialty care.

1 (3) The purpose of SEMSDIS shall be to determine and monitor
2 the quality and effectiveness of the statewide emergency medical
3 system.

4 (4) The authority shall comply with this section on or before
5 July 1, 2016.

6 *(b) (1) The authority shall develop guidelines and standards*
7 *for local emergency medical services agencies and local*
8 *prehospital emergency medical services providers' electronic*
9 *patient care record systems to ensure compatibility with SEMSDIS,*
10 *including, but not limited to, a common data dictionary, integration*
11 *of first responder data and transport provider data, and patient*
12 *outcome data, consistent with current national standards and*
13 *privacy requirements in state and federal law.*

14 *(2) The authority shall consult with stakeholders in the*
15 *development of standards and SEMSDIS, including air ambulance*
16 *providers and other entities not included in the California*
17 *Commission on Emergency Medical Services membership.*

18 ~~(b) Emergency~~

19 *(c) Prehospital emergency medical services providers shall do*
20 *all of the following concerning SEMSDIS:*

21 (1) Implement the electronic collection of prehospital care
22 reports using standard procedures, definitions, and interoperable
23 coding as adopted by the authority in the minimum standards
24 described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) *and paragraph (1)*
25 *of subdivision (b).* For purposes of this paragraph, “prehospital
26 care reports” include, but are not limited to, documentation of the
27 event, incident, or medical condition precipitating the need for
28 emergency medical services, the treatment provided, and the
29 patient’s medical history.

30 ~~(2) Transmit, at the scene of an emergency or during the~~
31 ~~transport of the patient to the destination hospital, patient health~~
32 ~~information, including, but not limited to, the patient’s approximate~~
33 ~~age, body type, and vital statistics, to the destination hospital.~~

34 ~~(3)~~

35 (2) Submit completed electronic patient care reports to the local
36 EMS agency in a timely manner.

37 ~~(e) Hospitals receiving emergency medical services patients~~
38 ~~shall do both of the following concerning SEMSDIS:~~

39 ~~(1) Include local EMS agencies in health information exchange~~
40 ~~development with the objective of exchanging critical patient data~~

1 with emergency medical services providers through an electronic
2 interface with the hospital’s electronic health records.

3 ~~(2) Provide patient disposition information to the local EMS~~
4 ~~agency for the purpose of quality improvement. For purposes of~~
5 ~~this paragraph, “patient disposition information” includes, but is~~
6 ~~not limited to, the diagnosis of the patient’s condition and any~~
7 ~~treatment provided.~~

8 (d) Local EMS agencies shall submit patient information
9 consistent with the requirements of paragraph (1) of subdivision
10 (a) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), to the authority in a timely
11 manner, using national standards when available.

12 (e) *The authority, in order to exercise the powers and perform*
13 *the duties conferred upon it by this chapter, and in accordance*
14 *with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of*
15 *Division 3 of the Government Code, shall adopt, amend, or repeal*
16 *any rules, regulations, or standards as may be necessary.*

17 (f) *The authority shall post any proposed rules promulgated*
18 *under this section on its public Internet Web site no later than 90*
19 *calendar days prior to the effective date of the proposed rule,*
20 *which shall also include notification to the public regarding how*
21 *members of the public may comment, including the date by which*
22 *those comments must be received in order to be considered by the*
23 *authority.*

24 (g) *This section and any rules and regulations promulgated*
25 *pursuant to this section shall only be implemented to the extent*
26 *that funds are made available through an appropriation in the*
27 *annual Budget Act.*

28 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
29 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
30 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
31 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
32 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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