

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2406

Introduced by Assembly Member Rodriguez

February 21, 2014

An act to add and repeal Section 1797.122 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2406, as amended, Rodriguez. Emergency Medical Services Authority: ~~abuse~~ *misuse* of emergency medical services.

Existing law requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority to develop planning and implementation guidelines for emergency medical services (EMS) systems that address several components, including, but not limited to, manpower and training, communications, transportation, and assessment of hospitals and critical care centers.

This bill would require the ~~authority~~ *authority*, no later than December 1, 2015, to report to the Legislature identifying programs that have been implemented in the state by local EMS agencies to address the misuse and ~~abuse~~ of emergency medical services. The bill would require the report to include a summary of the specified information on the various approaches applied to serve those frequent EMS user transports and any recommendations for the implementation of a statewide program to address the misuse and ~~abuse~~ of emergency medical services.

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) Nonemergency calls are overloading the 911 system.

4 (b) ~~The most common nonemergency reasons given by~~
5 ~~transported people calling 911 requesting an ambulance include:~~
6 ~~“I didn’t have a ride,” “I though I might be seen more quickly by~~
7 ~~getting to an emergency room on an ambulance,” “I needed a~~
8 ~~prescription refill,” “It’s a free ride,” and “I am hungry and I know~~
9 ~~I will get a meal at the hospital.”~~ *reasons that lead individuals to*
10 *overutilize emergency medical services transportation and*
11 *emergency departments include homelessness, mental illness,*
12 *extreme poverty, multiple health concerns, chronic physical*
13 *conditions, substance abuse, and most frequently, a lack of*
14 *understanding of the health care system and the availability of*
15 *more effective and appropriate alternatives.*

16 (c) Frequent users of emergency medical services, commonly
17 referred to as ambulance “frequent flyers,” are costing California
18 cities millions of dollars. According to the EMS Medical Director
19 of the County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services, for
20 example, 1,136 frequent users utilized the emergency medical
21 services (EMS) system at least six times in 2012 and generated
22 more than \$20 million in ambulance and paramedic charges.

23 SEC. 2. Section 1797.122 is added to the Health and Safety
24 Code, to read:

25 1797.122. (a) The authority shall prepare and submit a report
26 to the Legislature identifying programs that have been implemented
27 in the state by local emergency medical services agencies to address
28 the misuse ~~and abuse~~ of emergency medical services. The report
29 shall include all of the following:

30 (1) A summary of the different programs implemented by local
31 emergency medical services agencies to address the misuse ~~and~~
32 ~~abuse~~ of emergency medical services, including specific
33 information on the various approaches applied to serve those
34 frequent EMS user transports, such as:

- 35 (A) Identification and prioritization.
- 36 (B) Medical assessments.
- 37 (C) Care management or comprehensive care.
- 38 (D) Ongoing support via home visits or telephone calls.

1 (E) Support to the patient and family by directing the patient
2 and his or her family to available resources such as health insurance
3 coverage, access to primary care and mental health services,
4 transportation and other relevant social services.

5 (F) The financial impact of servicing frequent EMS user
6 transports, including funding sources and the costs of providing
7 these services.

8 (G) Best practices.

9 (H) Cost-saving measures to offset frequent EMS user transport
10 expenses.

11 (2) Any recommendations for the implementation of a statewide
12 program to address the misuse and abuse of emergency medical
13 services.

14 (b) The report shall be submitted to the Legislature no later than
15 December 1, 2015.

16 (c) (1) A report submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be
17 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
18 Code.

19 (2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this
20 section is repealed on January 1, 2019.