

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2406**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Rodriguez**

February 21, 2014

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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: 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, no later than ~~December 1, 2015,~~ *July 31, 2016*, to *prepare and submit a* report to the Legislature identifying programs that have been implemented in the state by local EMS agencies to address the misuse of emergency medical services. The bill would require the report to include a summary of 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 of emergency medical services. *The bill would specify that the authority may satisfy the report requirement described above by working in partnership with and directing a nonprofit agency to compile and publish the information*

*required in the report, or in lieu of a report, the bill would authorize the authority to provide for a discussion of innovative programs before local emergency medical services agencies, local governments, and private agencies that addresses the misuse of emergency medical services.*

*The bill would make legislative findings and declarations relating to the misuse 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 reasons that lead individuals to overutilize  
 5 emergency medical services transportation and emergency  
 6 departments include homelessness, mental illness, extreme poverty,  
 7 multiple health concerns, chronic physical conditions, substance  
 8 abuse, ~~and~~ *and*, most frequently, a lack of understanding of the  
 9 health care system and the availability of more effective and  
 10 appropriate alternatives.

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

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

20 1797.122. (a) ~~The~~ *Except as provided in subdivision (d), the*  
 21 authority shall prepare and submit a report to the Legislature  
 22 identifying programs that have been implemented in the state by  
 23 local emergency medical services agencies to address the misuse  
 24 of emergency medical services. The report shall include all of the  
 25 following:

26 (1) A summary of the different programs implemented by local  
 27 emergency medical services agencies to address the misuse of  
 28 emergency medical services, including specific information on the

1 various approaches applied to serve those frequent EMS user  
2 transports, such as:

- 3 (A) Identification and prioritization.
- 4 (B) Medical assessments.
- 5 (C) Care management or comprehensive care.
- 6 (D) Ongoing support via home visits or telephone calls.
- 7 (E) Support to the patient and family by directing the patient  
8 and his or her family to available resources such as health insurance  
9 coverage, access to primary care and mental health services,  
10 ~~transportation~~ *transportation*, and other relevant social services.
- 11 (F) The financial impact of servicing frequent EMS user  
12 transports, including funding sources and the costs of providing  
13 these services.
- 14 (G) Best practices.
- 15 (H) Cost-saving measures to offset frequent EMS user transport  
16 expenses.

17 (2) Any recommendations for the implementation of a statewide  
18 program to address the misuse ~~and abuse~~ of emergency medical  
19 services.

20 (b) The report shall be submitted to the Legislature no later than  
21 ~~December 1, 2015.~~ *July 31, 2016.*

22 (c) (1) A report submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be  
23 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government  
24 Code.

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

27 (d) *To satisfy the report requirement described in subdivision*  
28 *(a), the authority may do either of the following:*

29 (1) *Work in a partnership with and direct a nonprofit agency*  
30 *to compile and publish the information described in subdivision*  
31 *(a). The authority shall provide this information to the Legislature*  
32 *in accordance with subdivisions (b) and (c).*

33 (2) *In lieu of a report, the authority may provide for a discussion*  
34 *of innovative programs before local emergency services agencies,*  
35 *local governments, and private agencies that addresses the misuse*  
36 *of emergency medical services.*