

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 14, 2013

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 208**

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**Introduced by Senator Lara**

February 8, 2013

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*An act to add Section 4648.11 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to developmental services.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 208, as amended, Lara. Developmental services: ~~regional centers: request for proposals.~~

Under existing law, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, the State Department of Developmental Services is authorized to contract with regional centers to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. The services and supports to be provided to a regional center consumer are contained in an individual program plan (IPP), developed in accordance with prescribed requirements. Existing law authorizes the regional center to, among other things, solicit an individual or agency, by requests for proposals (RFPs) or other means, to provide needed services or supports that are not available to achieve the stated objectives of a consumer's IPP.

*This bill would establish the Equity and Diversity in Developmental Services Act, and would require a request for proposals that is prepared by the department or by a regional center and that relates to consumer programs or services and supports to include a section on issues of equity and diversity, as specified.*

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to require that RFPs that are created by regional centers include a section~~

to evaluate the applicant’s ability to provide services and supports that are culturally and linguistically competent.

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

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

- 1     SECTION 1. *The Legislature hereby finds and declares the*
- 2 *following:*
- 3     (a) *Recent and emerging evidence in the number of children*
- 4 *diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) in California*
- 5 *and in the United States indicates that ASDs have reached a level*
- 6 *of public health crisis that must be addressed.*
- 7     (b) *The State Department of Developmental Services and the*
- 8 *regional center system provide treatment, habilitation, and other*
- 9 *services to Californians with developmental disabilities so that*
- 10 *they may lead more independent, productive, and integrated lives.*
- 11     (c) *California, where diverse communities account for about*
- 12 *60 percent of the population, is now a “majority minority” state.*
- 13     (d) *The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act*
- 14 *requires that a person who receives services from a regional center*
- 15 *must have programs, services, and supports that are “person*
- 16 *centered” and that are based on the specific assessment and needs*
- 17 *of each consumer.*
- 18     (e) *Therefore, services provided to regional center consumers*
- 19 *should be provided in a linguistically and culturally competent*
- 20 *manner that promotes equity and diversity for all Californians.*
- 21     SEC. 2. *Section 4648.11 is added to the Welfare and Institutions*
- 22 *Code, to read:*
- 23     4648.11. (a) *This section shall be known and may be cited as*
- 24 *the Equity and Diversity in Developmental Services Act.*
- 25     (b) *A request for proposals that is prepared by the department*
- 26 *or by a regional center and that relates to consumer programs or*
- 27 *services and supports shall include a section on issues of equity*
- 28 *and diversity.*
- 29     (c) *The section on equity and diversity shall request, but not be*
- 30 *limited to, all of the following:*
- 31     (1) *A statement outlining the applicant’s plan to serve diverse*
- 32 *populations.*

1     (2) *Examples of the applicant’s commitment to addressing the*  
2 *needs of diverse populations.*

3     (3) *Any additional information that the applicant deems relevant*  
4 *to issues of equity and diversity, including hiring bilingual staff,*  
5 *location of the program site, outreach strategies for underserved*  
6 *communities, and training and other materials in various*  
7 *languages and that are provided in a manner that is linguistically*  
8 *and culturally competent.*

9     (4) *Nothing in this section shall alter contracts entered into on*  
10 *or before January 1, 2014.*

11     ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~  
12 ~~legislation to require that requests for proposals that are created~~  
13 ~~by regional centers include a section to evaluate the applicant’s~~  
14 ~~ability to provide services and supports that are culturally and~~  
15 ~~linguistically competent.~~