

**Introduced by Senator Monning
(Principal coauthor: Senator Hernandez)**

February 21, 2013

An act to amend Section 3500 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to health care providers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 494, as introduced, Monning. Health care providers: California Health Benefit Exchange.

Existing law, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, requires each state to, by January 1, 2014, establish an American Health Benefit Exchange that makes available qualified health plans to qualified individuals and qualified employers, as specified, and meets certain other requirements. Existing law establishes the California Health Benefit Exchange (the Exchange) within state government for that purpose.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to ensure that qualified health plans participating in the California Health Benefit Exchange provide an adequate network of primary care providers, including non-physician providers.

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 3500 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 3500. In its concern with the growing shortage and geographic
- 4 maldistribution of health care services in California, the Legislature

1 intends to establish in this chapter a framework for development
2 of a new category of health manpower—the physician assistant.

3 *It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that qualified health*
4 *plans participating in the California Health Benefit Exchange,*
5 *created by Section 100500 of the Government Code, provide an*
6 *adequate network of primary care providers, including*
7 *non-physician providers.*

8 The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the more effective
9 utilization of the skills of physicians, and physicians and podiatrists
10 practicing in the same medical group practice, by enabling them
11 to delegate health care tasks to qualified physician assistants where
12 this delegation is consistent with the patient’s health and welfare
13 and with the laws and regulations relating to physician assistants.

14 This chapter is established to encourage the utilization of
15 physician assistants by physicians, and by physicians and
16 podiatrists practicing in the same medical group, and to provide
17 that existing legal constraints should not be an unnecessary
18 hindrance to the more effective provision of health care services.

19 It is also the purpose of this chapter to allow for innovative
20 development of programs for the education, training, and utilization
21 of physician assistants.