

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 414

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

February 19, 2015

An act to amend Section 1179.1 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 414, as introduced, Chávez. Office of Rural Health.

Existing law requires the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency to establish an Office of Rural Health, or an alternative organizational structure, to serve as a key information and referral source to promote coordinated planning for the delivery of health services in rural California.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this provision.

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 1179.1 of the Health and Safety Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 1179.1. (a) The Secretary of the *California* Health and ~~Welfare~~
- 4 *Human Services* Agency shall establish an Office of Rural Health,
- 5 or an alternative organizational structure, in one of the departments
- 6 of the *California* Health and ~~Welfare~~ *Human Services* Agency to
- 7 promote a strong working relationship between state government
- 8 and local and federal agencies, universities, private and public

1 interest groups, rural consumers, health care providers, foundations,
2 and other offices of rural health, as well as to develop health
3 initiatives and maximize the use of existing resources without
4 duplicating existing effort. The office or alternative organizational
5 structure shall serve as a key information and referral source to
6 promote coordinated planning for the delivery of health services
7 in rural California.

8 (b) To the extent funds are appropriated by the Legislature,
9 these efforts may include:

10 (1) Educating the public and recommending appropriate public
11 policies regarding the viability of rural health care in California.

12 (2) Monitoring and working with state and federal agencies to
13 assess the impact of proposed rules and regulations on rural areas.

14 (3) Promoting community involvement and community support
15 in maintaining, rebuilding, and diversifying local health services
16 in rural areas.

17 (4) Encouraging and evaluating the use of advanced
18 communications technology to provide access to health promotion
19 and disease prevention information, specialty expertise, clinical
20 consultation, and continuing education for health professionals.

21 (5) Encouraging the development of regional health care and
22 public health networks and collaborative efforts, including, but
23 not limited to, emergency transportation networks.

24 (6) Working with state and local agencies, universities, and
25 private and public interest groups to promote research on rural
26 health issues.

27 (7) Soliciting the assistance of other offices or programs of rural
28 health in California to carry out the duties of this part.

29 (8) Disseminating information and providing technical assistance
30 to communities, health care providers, and consumers of health
31 care services.

32 (9) Promoting strategies to improve health care professional
33 recruitment and retention in rural areas.

34 (10) Encouraging innovative responses by public and private
35 entities to address rural health issues.