

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 488

Introduced by Assembly Member Gonzalez

February 23, 2015

An act to amend Section 14132.24 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 488, as introduced, Gonzalez. Medi-Cal: community-living support benefits.

Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Existing law requires the department to develop and implement a program to provide a community-living support benefit to eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Existing law requires the community-living support benefit to include reimbursement for an array of health-related and psychological services provided or coordinated at community-based housing sites, and access to community-living support services provided or coordinated at the community-based housing site.

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 14132.24 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 14132.24. (a) The department shall develop and implement a
4 program to provide a community-living support benefit to eligible
5 Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The department shall submit any waiver
6 application, modification of any existing waiver, or amendment
7 to the Medicaid state plan, that is necessary to provide this benefit,
8 and shall implement the benefit only to the extent that federal
9 financial participation is available.

10 (b) The community-living support benefit shall include both of
11 the following:

12 (1) (A) Reimbursement for an array of health-related and
13 psychosocial services provided or coordinated at community-based
14 housing sites that enable beneficiaries to remain in the least
15 restrictive and most homelike environment while receiving the
16 health-related services, including personal care and psychosocial
17 services, necessary to protect their health and well-being. These
18 community-based housing units may include, but are not limited
19 to, the living area or unit within a facility that is specifically
20 designed to provide ongoing assisted living services, licensed
21 residential care facilities for the elderly, publicly funded senior
22 and disabled housing projects, or supportive housing sites that
23 serve chronically homeless individuals with chronic or disabling
24 health conditions.

25 (B) For purposes of this section, “assisted living services”
26 includes, but is not limited to, assistance with personal activities
27 of daily living, including dressing, feeding, toileting, bathing,
28 grooming, mobility, and associated tasks, to help provide for and
29 maintain physical and psychological comfort.

30 (2) Access to community-living support services provided or
31 coordinated at the community-based housing site, including, but
32 not limited to, the personal care and health services specified in
33 paragraph (8) of subdivision (a) of Section 1788 of the Health and
34 Safety Code, and the health related support services specified in
35 *former* Section 53290 of the Health and Safety Code.

36 (c) Services available through the community-living support
37 benefit shall not duplicate services available through the Medi-Cal

1 state plan, other Medi-Cal waivers, or other programs financed by
2 the state.

3 (d) An individual shall be eligible for the community-living
4 support benefit if he or she is eligible for the Medi-Cal program,
5 is a resident of San Francisco who would otherwise be homeless,
6 living in shelters, or institutionalized, and meets one or both of the
7 following criteria:

8 (1) The department determines that he or she would benefit
9 from supportive housing, as defined in subdivision (c) of *former*
10 Section 53260 of the Health and Safety Code.

11 (2) The department determines that he or she is eligible for
12 placement in a skilled nursing facility, as defined in subdivision
13 (c) of Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code, or an
14 intermediate care facility, as defined in subdivision (d) of that
15 section.

16 (e) The department may modify the eligibility criteria specified
17 in subdivision (d), if needed, to qualify the community-living
18 support benefit for federal financial participation.

19 (f) The department shall seek to maximize resources for
20 community-based housing by coordinating the community-living
21 support benefit with existing efforts to coordinate care, improve
22 health outcomes, and reduce long-term care costs for the targeted
23 population.

24 (g) This section shall be implemented only upon adoption of a
25 resolution by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of
26 San Francisco providing county funds for use by the state to match
27 federal Medicaid funds to receive federal funds for services
28 provided under the waiver specified in this section, and for any
29 costs associated with implementing and monitoring the waiver, to
30 limit additional state costs.