

Introduced by Senator Lara

February 23, 2015

An act to amend Section 152 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 291, as introduced, Lara. Office of Health Equity.

Existing law establishes the Office of Health Equity within the State Department of Public Health for the purposes of aligning state resources, decisionmaking, and programs to accomplish various goals relating to health, and requires the office to perform various duties specifically relating to multicultural health.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to these provisions.

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 152 of the Health and Safety Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 152. (a) ~~The State Department of Public Health~~ Office of
- 4 Health Equity *within the State Department of Public Health* shall
- 5 do all of the following:
- 6 (1) Perform strategic planning to develop departmentwide plans
- 7 for implementation of goals and objectives to close the gaps in
- 8 health status and access to care among the state's diverse racial
- 9 and ethnic communities, women, persons with disabilities, and the

1 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning
2 (LGBTQQ) communities.

3 (2) Conduct departmental policy analysis on specific issues
4 related to multicultural health.

5 (3) Coordinate projects funded by the state that are related to
6 improving the effectiveness of services to ethnic and racial
7 communities, women, and the LGBTQQ communities.

8 (4) Identify the unnecessary duplication of services and future
9 service needs.

10 (5) Communicate and disseminate information and perform a
11 liaison function within the department and to providers of health,
12 social, educational, and support services to racial and ethnic
13 communities, women, persons with disabilities, and the LGBTQQ
14 communities. The department shall consult regularly with
15 representatives from diverse racial and ethnic communities,
16 women, persons with disabilities, and the LGBTQQ communities,
17 including health providers, advocates, and consumers.

18 (6) Perform internal staff training, an internal assessment of
19 cultural competency, and training of health care professionals to
20 ensure more linguistically and culturally competent care.

21 (7) Serve as a resource for ensuring that programs collect and
22 keep data and information regarding ethnic and racial health
23 statistics, including those statistics described in reports released
24 by Healthy People 2020, and information based on sexual
25 orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, strategies and
26 programs that address multicultural health issues, including, but
27 not limited to, infant and maternal mortality, cancer, cardiovascular
28 disease, diabetes, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired
29 immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), child and adult
30 immunization, osteoporosis, menopause, and full reproductive
31 health, asthma, unintentional and intentional injury, and obesity,
32 as well as issues that impact the health of racial and ethnic
33 communities, women, and the LGBTQQ communities, including
34 substance abuse, mental health, housing, teenage pregnancy,
35 environmental disparities, immigrant and migrant health, and health
36 insurance and delivery systems.

37 (8) Encourage innovative responses by public and private entities
38 that are attempting to address multicultural health issues.

39 (9) Provide technical assistance to counties, other public entities,
40 and private entities seeking to obtain funds for initiatives in

1 multicultural health, including identification of funding sources
2 and assistance with writing grants.
3 (b) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code,
4 the State Department of Public Health shall biennially prepare and
5 submit a report to the Legislature on the status of the activities
6 required by this chapter. This report shall be included in the report
7 required under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section
8 131019.5.

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