

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 34

**Introduced by Assembly Member Steinberg
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Thomson)**

December 7, 1998

An act relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 34, as introduced, Steinberg. Mental health funding.

Existing law provides for the allocation of state funds to counties for mental health programs.

This bill would provide that, commencing with the 2000–01 fiscal year, every county shall receive an unspecified amount of funds based upon the net increase in the number of persons the county has provided with mental health services during the previous fiscal year.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) Presently there are no financial incentives for
4 counties to increase the number of people they serve with
5 severe mental illness.

6 (b) County dollars are generally fixed, so that
7 treatment of a higher than expected number of Medi-Cal
8 recipients, who are entitled to treatment by the county,

1 reduces the amount of funds available to serve other
2 individuals.

3 (c) Counties should be provided an amount of funds to
4 provide mental health services and related medications
5 for indigents not yet qualified for Medi-Cal, and for
6 substance abuse services, housing assistance, vocational
7 rehabilitation, and other nonmedical programs necessary
8 to stabilize homeless mentally ill persons and get them
9 into regular treatment and off the streets.

10 SEC. 2. Commencing with the 2000–01 fiscal year and
11 each fiscal year thereafter, every county shall receive
12 \$___ based upon the net increase in the number of
13 persons the county has provided with mental health
14 services during the previous year.

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