

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 8, 2009
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30, 2009
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 16, 2009
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2009
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 718

Introduced by Assembly Member Emmerson
(Coauthor: Senator Negrete McLeod)

February 26, 2009

An act to add and repeal Section 14087.521 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 718, as amended, Emmerson. Inland Empire Health Plan E-Prescribing Pilot Program.

Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which basic health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons. Existing law authorizes the California Medical Assistance Commission to negotiate exclusive contracts with any county that seeks to provide, or arrange for the provision of health care services provided under the Medi-Cal program. Existing law authorizes the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County to, by ordinance, establish a commission to

negotiate the above-described exclusive contract and to arrange for the supervision of certain health care services.

The Pharmacy Law regulates, among other matters, the dispensing by prescription of dangerous devices and dangerous drugs, which include controlled substances. Existing law authorizes the electronic transmission of prescriptions under specified circumstances.

This bill would, until January 1, 2013, create the Inland Empire Health Plan E-Prescribing Pilot Program and would require the program to promote health care quality and the exchange of health care information and to include specified components, including electronic prescribing, as defined. The bill would require the Inland Empire Health Plan, a joint powers agency, to select, through a competitive bid process, an entity whose product has specified certification to administer the program and would require this entity to submit a report to the Legislature, by January 1, 2012, regarding the goals and results of the program and whether the program should be extended, as specified. *The bill would provide that a physician who contracts with the Inland Empire Health Plan shall not be required to participate in the pilot program.* The bill would provide that the above-described provisions shall be funded by funds made available by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. By imposing a new requirement on a joint powers agency, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14087.521 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 14087.521. (a) The Inland Empire Health Plan E-Prescribing
- 4 Pilot Program is hereby created. For purposes of this section,

1 “program” means the Inland Empire Health Plan E-Prescribing
2 Pilot Program.

3 (b) The program shall be administered by an entity whose
4 product has been certified by the Certification Commission for
5 Health Information Technology *or another certifying entity*
6 *authorized by the federal Department of Health and Human*
7 *Services*, either as a stand-alone electronic prescribing product or
8 service or as part of an electronic health record product or service.
9 This entity shall be selected by the Inland Empire Health Plan
10 through a competitive bid process.

11 (c) The program shall promote health care quality and the
12 exchange of health care information consistent with applicable
13 law, including, but not limited to, applicable state and federal
14 confidentiality and data security requirements and applicable state
15 record retention and reporting requirements. The program shall
16 include all of the following components:

17 (1) Integrated clinical decision support alerts for allergies,
18 drug-drug interactions, duplications in therapy, and elderly alerts.

19 (2) Current payer formulary information.

20 (3) Appropriate alternatives, when needed, to support
21 cost-effective prescribing at the point of care, except that nothing
22 in this section shall be construed to authorize the program to
23 establish a drug formulary.

24 (4) Drug compendia approved by the federal Centers for
25 Medicare and Medicaid Services.

26 (5) Electronic prescribing consistent with applicable state and
27 federal law.

28 (6) Patient drug history.

29 (d) (1) Electronic prescribing pursuant to the program shall not
30 interfere with a patient’s existing freedom to choose a pharmacy
31 and shall not interfere with the prescribing decision at the point of
32 care.

33 (2) *A physician who contracts with the Inland Empire Health*
34 *Plan shall not be required to participate in the pilot program.*

35 (e) The entity administering the program shall, on or before
36 January 1, 2012, submit a report to the Legislature on the goals
37 and results of the program and whether the program should be
38 extended. This report shall include quantifiable data on all of the
39 following:

- 1 (1) The number of prescribers enrolled in the program who use
2 electronic prescribing.
- 3 (2) The number of pharmacies participating in the program.
- 4 (3) The number and percentage of prescriptions sent
5 electronically as a percentage of the overall number of prescriptions
6 reimbursed by the plan.
- 7 (4) Expenditures on the program.
- 8 (5) Data on whether and to what extent the program achieved
9 the following goals:
- 10 (A) Reduced medication errors.
- 11 (B) Reduced prescription fraud.
- 12 (C) Reduced health care costs, including, but not limited to,
13 inpatient hospitalization, by reducing medication errors, increasing
14 patient medication compliance, and identifying medication
15 contraindications.
- 16 (f) For purposes of this section, “electronic prescribing” shall
17 have the same meaning as “electronic data transmission
18 prescription” as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 4040 of the
19 Business and Professions Code.
- 20 (g) This section shall be funded by funds made available by the
21 federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public
22 Law 111-5).
- 23 (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2013,
24 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
25 is enacted before January 1, 2013, deletes or extends that date.
- 26 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
27 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
28 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
29 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
30 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.