

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1223

Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Cook (Chair), Pan (Vice Chair), Atkins, Block, Gorell, Nielsen, V. Manuel Pérez, Williams, and Yamada)

February 18, 2011

An act to repeal and add Section 14124.11 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1223, as introduced, Committee on Veterans Affairs. Medi-Cal: Public Assistance Reporting Information System.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, 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 establish a 2-year pilot program to utilize the federal Public Assistance and Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and assist them in obtaining federal veterans' health care benefits. Existing law requires the department to select 3 counties, as specified, to participate in the pilot project and authorizes the department to implement the program statewide at any time and continue the operation of PARIS indefinitely if the department determines that the pilot program is cost effective.

This bill would remove the pilot project nature of these provisions and would require the department to implement this program statewide.

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. Section 14124.11 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is repealed.
3 ~~14124.11. (a) The department shall establish a two-year pilot~~
4 ~~program to utilize the federal Public Assistance Reporting~~
5 ~~Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans and their~~
6 ~~dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program~~
7 ~~and assist them in obtaining federal veteran health care benefits.~~
8 ~~(b) The department shall select three consenting counties that~~
9 ~~have in operation a United States Department of Veterans Affairs~~
10 ~~(USDVA) medical center to participate in the pilot program.~~
11 ~~(c) Under the pilot program, the department shall exchange~~
12 ~~information with PARIS and identify veterans and their dependents~~
13 ~~or survivors who are receiving Medi-Cal benefits in the pilot~~
14 ~~program counties.~~
15 ~~(d) The department shall refer identified Medi-Cal beneficiaries~~
16 ~~who are receiving high-cost services, including long-term care, to~~
17 ~~county veteran service officers (CVSOs) to obtain information~~
18 ~~regarding, and assistance in obtaining, USDVA benefits.~~
19 ~~(e) Prior to commencement of the pilot program, the department~~
20 ~~shall do all of the following:~~
21 ~~(1) Enter into an agreement with the California Department of~~
22 ~~Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to perform CVSO outreach services in~~
23 ~~connection with the pilot program. The CDVA agreement shall~~
24 ~~contain performance standards that would allow the department~~
25 ~~to measure the effectiveness of the pilot program.~~
26 ~~(2) Enter into any agreements that are required by the federal~~
27 ~~government to utilize the PARIS system.~~
28 ~~(3) Perform any information technology activities that are~~
29 ~~necessary to utilize the PARIS system.~~
30 ~~(f) The department shall monitor the two-year pilot program,~~
31 ~~evaluate the outcomes and savings, and provide the fiscal~~
32 ~~committees of the Legislature with a report on the findings and~~
33 ~~recommendations. If the department determines that the pilot~~
34 ~~program is cost effective, it may implement the program statewide~~
35 ~~at any time and continue operation of PARIS indefinitely.~~

1 ~~(g) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section~~
2 ~~11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,~~
3 ~~the department may implement, interpret, or make specific, this~~
4 ~~section by means of written directives without taking further~~
5 ~~regulatory action.~~

6 ~~(h) The department shall implement the pilot program by July~~
7 ~~1, 2009.~~

8 ~~(i) In order to achieve maximum cost savings the Legislature~~
9 ~~hereby determines that an expedited contract process for contracts~~
10 ~~under this section is necessary. Therefore, contracts under this~~
11 ~~section shall be exempt from the Public Contract Code and from~~
12 ~~Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 11250) of Part 1 of Division~~
13 ~~3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.~~

14 SEC. 2. Section 14124.11 is added to the Welfare and
15 Institutions Code, to read:

16 14124.11. (a) The department shall utilize the federal Public
17 Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify
18 veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the
19 Medi-Cal program and assist them in obtaining federal veteran
20 health care benefits.

21 (b) The department shall exchange information with PARIS
22 and identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are
23 receiving Medi-Cal benefits.

24 (c) The department shall refer identified Medi-Cal beneficiaries
25 who are receiving high-cost services, including long-term care, to
26 county veteran service officers (CVSOs) to obtain information
27 regarding, and assistance in obtaining, USDVA benefits.

28 (d) In implementing this section, the department shall do all of
29 the following:

30 (1) Enter into an agreement with the California Department of
31 Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to perform CVSO outreach services.
32 The CDVA agreement shall contain performance standards that
33 will allow the department to measure the effectiveness of the
34 program established by this section.

35 (2) Enter into any agreements that are required by the federal
36 government to utilize the PARIS system.

37 (3) Perform any information technology activities that are
38 necessary to utilize the PARIS system.

39 (e) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section
40 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,

1 the department may implement, interpret, or make specific, this
2 section by means of written directives without taking further
3 regulatory action.

4 (f) In order to achieve maximum cost savings the Legislature
5 hereby determines that an expedited contract process for contracts
6 under this section is necessary. Therefore, contracts under this
7 section shall be exempt from the Public Contract Code and from
8 Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 11250) of Part 1 of Division
9 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.