

Introduced by Senator Simitian

February 22, 2005

An act to add Section 1374.17 to the Health and Safety Code, to add Section 10127.19 to the Insurance Code, and to add Article 2.99 (commencing with Section 14095) to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to health care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 913, as introduced, Simitian. Medication therapies: rheumatic diseases.

Existing law, the Knox–Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans and makes a violation of the act's provisions a crime. Existing law makes the Department of Managed Health Care responsible for administering the act's provisions and requires it to maintain information regarding the operation of health care service plans. Under the act, a health care service plan contract that covers prescription drug benefits is required to provide coverage for specified medications.

Existing law also provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Insurance Commissioner and requires health insurance policies to provide specified coverage for insureds.

This bill would, with respect to the biologic class of drugs for the treatment of rheumatic disease, prohibit health care service plans that contract to provide coverage for medications and health insurers from limiting access to biologic therapies by designating a preferred drug.

Because the bill would impose additional requirements on health care service plans, the willful violation of which is a crime, it would impose a state–mandated local program.

The federal Medicaid program provides for federal financial participation for state medical assistance programs that meet federal standards. This state's version of the Medicaid program is known as the California Medical Assistance Program, or the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Services.

Existing law authorizes the department, under the Medi-Cal program, to enter into specified contracts for various products and services. Under these provisions, the department is considered the purchaser, but not the dispenser or distributor, of prescribed drugs.

This bill would require the department to establish a pilot program to evaluate the provision of medical therapy management services for Medi-Cal recipients with rheumatic disease, with respect to services provided on or after September 1, 2006.

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 no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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 1374.17 is added to the Health and
2 Safety Code, to read:

3 1374.17. On or after January 1, 2006, no health care service
4 plan shall, with respect to the biologic class of drugs for the
5 treatment of rheumatic disease, limit access to biologic therapies
6 by designating a preferred drug.

7 SEC. 2. Section 10127.19 is added to the Insurance Code, to
8 read:

9 10127.19. On or after January 1, 2006, no health or disability
10 insurer contracting to provide coverage for drugs shall, with
11 respect to the biologic class of drugs for the treatment of
12 rheumatic disease, limit access to biologic therapies by
13 designating a preferred drug.

14 SEC. 3. Article 2.99 (commencing with Section 14095) is
15 added to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and
16 Institutions Code, to read:

1 Article 2.99. Rheumatic Disease Therapy Pilot Program

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3 14095. (a) The department shall establish a pilot program to
4 evaluate the provision of medical therapy management services
5 for Medi-Cal recipients with rheumatic disease.

6 (b) The department shall conduct the evaluation with respect to
7 services provided on or after September 1, 2006.

8 SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
9 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
10 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
11 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
12 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the
13 penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section
14 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a
15 crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the
16 California Constitution.

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