

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 18, 2016  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2589**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez**

February 19, 2016

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An act to add Sections 123362 and 123363 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to ~~lactation services~~. *public health*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2589, as amended, Gomez. ~~Lactation~~ *Public health: lactation services and equipment*.

Existing law provides for the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC Program) administered by the State Department of Public Health and counties, under which nutrition and other assistance is provided to eligible low-income postpartum and lactating women, infants, and children under 5 years of age.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which health care services, including breastfeeding services, are provided to qualified low-income persons. Existing law requires the State Department of Health Care Services to streamline and simplify existing Medi-Cal program procedures in order to improve access to lactation supports and breast pumps among Medi-Cal recipients.

This bill would require the State Department of Public Health to coordinate with the State Department of Health Care Services *and Covered California* to develop processes, procedures, and an electronic interface for eligibility-related information sharing to streamline enrollment into the WIC Program as part of the application process for Medi-Cal and health plans offered through the California Health Benefit Exchange. *The bill would require the interface of the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS) to identify individuals who may be eligible for the WIC Program and, by certain dates, provide electronic access to program applications in a certain format, as specified.* The bill would also require the State Department of Public Health to coordinate with the State Department of Health Care Services, through a stakeholder engagement process, as specified, to develop measures and outcomes for breastfeeding rates, as specified. The bill would require the recommendations from the stakeholder engagement process to be posted on the departments' Internet Web sites by January 1, 2018.

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 123362 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 123362. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall
- 4 coordinate with the State Department of Health Care Services *and*
- 5 *Covered California* to develop processes, procedures, and an
- 6 electronic interface for eligibility-related information sharing to
- 7 streamline enrollment into the California Special Supplemental
- 8 Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as
- 9 the WIC Program, as part of the application process for Medi-Cal
- 10 and health plans offered through the California Health Benefit
- 11 Exchange established under Title 22 (commencing with Section
- 12 100500) of the Government Code.
- 13 (b) *On or before January 1, 2019, the California Healthcare*
- 14 *Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS)*
- 15 *developed under Section 15926 of the Welfare and Institutions*
- 16 *Code shall identify individuals who are potentially eligible for the*
- 17 *WIC Program and, if a potentially eligible individual wishes to*

1 *apply for the WIC Program, electronically link them to a WIC*  
2 *Program application.*

3 *(c) On or before January 1, 2022, the California Healthcare*  
4 *Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS)*  
5 *developed under Section 15926 of the Welfare and Institutions*  
6 *Code shall identify individuals who are potentially eligible for the*  
7 *WIC Program and, if a potentially eligible individual wishes to*  
8 *apply for the WIC Program and provides consent to share*  
9 *confidential data with the WIC Program, provide a simple interface*  
10 *for the individual to electronically complete a WIC Program*  
11 *application without resubmitting data already known to the*  
12 *CalHEERS system.*

13 SEC. 2. Section 123363 is added to the Health and Safety Code,  
14 to read:

15 123363. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall  
16 coordinate with the State Department of Health Care Services,  
17 through a stakeholder engagement process that shall include, but  
18 not be limited to, representatives from health care providers,  
19 primary care clinics, and health plans, state and local staff from  
20 the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,  
21 Infants, and Children (WIC Program) and the Maternal, Child and  
22 Adolescent Health program, and representatives from organizations  
23 representing women, infants, and children, to, beginning prenatally  
24 and continuing through the postpartum period and at least until  
25 the infant reaches one year of age, develop measures and outcomes  
26 for breastfeeding rates that do both of the following:

27 (1) Include, at a minimum, women’s intention to breastfeed,  
28 breastfeeding initiation rates, and exclusivity and duration.

29 (2) Identify ethnic disparities and sociodemographic differences.

30 (b) The stakeholder process shall take no longer than six months  
31 and the recommendations shall be posted on the departments’  
32 Internet Web sites by January 1, 2018.