

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 2016
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

Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez

February 19, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2589, as amended, Gomez. 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) and the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS) 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

1 Code and the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS)
2 developed under Section 10823 of the Welfare and Institutions
3 Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 846 of the Statutes of
4 2014, shall identify individuals who are potentially eligible for the
5 WIC Program and, if a potentially eligible individual wishes to
6 apply for the WIC Program, electronically link them to a WIC
7 Program application.

8 (c) On or before January 1, 2022, the California Healthcare
9 Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS)
10 developed under Section 15926 of the Welfare and Institutions
11 Code and the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS)
12 developed under Section 10823 of the Welfare and Institutions
13 Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 846 of the Statutes of
14 2014, shall identify individuals who are potentially eligible for the
15 WIC Program and, if a potentially eligible individual wishes to
16 apply for the WIC Program and provides consent to share
17 confidential data with the WIC Program, provide a simple interface
18 for the individual to electronically complete a WIC Program
19 application without resubmitting data already known to the
20 CalHEERS system and SAWS systems.

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

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

35 (1) Include, at a minimum, women's intention to breastfeed,
36 breastfeeding initiation rates, and exclusivity and duration.

37 (2) Identify ethnic disparities and sociodemographic differences.

- 1 (b) The stakeholder process shall take no longer than six months
- 2 and the recommendations shall be posted on the departments'
- 3 Internet Web sites by January 1, 2018.

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