

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2016  
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**

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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 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 System (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 specified, if an electronic application is available. The bill would require that these provisions be implemented only to the extent that funding is available, as specified.~~

*This 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.

1 (b) On or before January 1, 2019, the California Healthcare  
2 Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS)  
3 developed under Section 15926 of the Welfare and Institutions  
4 Code and the Statewide Automated Welfare ~~Systems~~ *System*  
5 (SAWS) developed under Section 10823 of the Welfare and  
6 Institutions Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 846 of the  
7 Statutes of 2014, shall identify individuals who are potentially  
8 eligible for the WIC Program and, if a potentially eligible  
9 individual wishes to apply for the ~~WIC Program~~, *Program and an*  
10 *electronic application is available*, electronically link them to a  
11 WIC Program application.

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

26 (d) *This section shall be implemented only to the extent that*  
27 *funding from the General Fund or federal funds, or both, is*  
28 *available for the purposes of this section.*

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

31 123363. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall  
32 coordinate with the State Department of Health Care Services,  
33 through a stakeholder engagement process that shall include, but  
34 not be limited to, representatives from health care providers,  
35 primary care clinics, and health plans, state and local staff from  
36 the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,  
37 Infants, and Children (WIC Program) and the Maternal, ~~Child~~  
38 *Child*, and Adolescent Health program, and representatives from  
39 organizations representing women, infants, and children, to,  
40 beginning prenatally and continuing through the postpartum period

1 and at least until the infant reaches one year of age, develop  
2 measures and outcomes for breastfeeding rates that do both of the  
3 following:

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

6 (2) Identify ethnic disparities and sociodemographic differences.

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

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