

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 14, 2016  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2016

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1466**

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**Introduced by Senator Mitchell**

February 19, 2016

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An act to add Section 14132.19 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1466, as amended, Mitchell. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: trauma screening.

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, including early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment for any individual under 21 years of age who is covered under Medi-Cal consistent with the requirements under federal law. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions.

Existing federal law provides that EPSDT services include periodic screening services, vision services, dental services, hearing services, and other necessary services to correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions discovered by the screening services, whether or not the services are covered under the state plan. In addition to the required periodic screening services, existing federal law provides that Medicaid-eligible children are entitled to interperiodic screenings in order to identify a suspected illness or condition not present or discovered during the periodic exam.

The bill would require, *consistent with federal law*, those screening services under the EPSDT ~~Program~~ *program* to include screening for ~~trauma~~. The bill would provide that ~~child abuse and neglect or removal of the child from the parent or legal guardian by a child welfare agency shall be prima facie evidence of trauma for purposes of conducting a screening under the EPSDT Program.~~ *trauma, as defined by the bill.* The bill would require that a child who is found to have experienced trauma through the screening process be referred to the county mental health plan for an assessment for specialty mental health services. The bill would require that any child who is found to have experienced trauma during a screening made pursuant to these provisions, and any child that is abused, neglected or removed from the custody or care of his or her parent or legal guardian, as specified, be assessed by the county mental health plan for specialty mental health services. The bill would require that a child who is determined not to be eligible for specialty mental health services be referred for other necessary health care, diagnostic services, treatment, and other measures, as specified.

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 14132.19 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:  
3 14132.19. (a) ~~Screening~~ *(1) Consistent with federal law,*  
4 *screening* services provided under the Early and Periodic  
5 Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) ~~Program~~ *benefit*  
6 pursuant to subdivision (v) of Section 14132 shall include screening  
7 for ~~trauma~~. *trauma at all screenings.*  
8 (2) *A child found to have experienced trauma through the*  
9 *screening process shall be referred to the county mental health*  
10 *plan for an assessment for specialty mental health services.*  
11 (b) ~~Child abuse and neglect or removal of the child from the~~  
12 ~~parent or legal guardian by a child welfare agency shall be prima~~  
13 ~~facie evidence of trauma for purposes of conducting a screening~~  
14 ~~consistent with this section under the EPSDT Program.~~  
15 (b) *A child who is abused, neglected, or removed from the*  
16 *custody or care of his or her parent or legal guardian pursuant*  
17 *to Section 300 and following, or Section 727, shall be assessed by*  
18 *the county mental health plan for specialty mental health services.*

1     (c) *A child who is found to have experienced trauma during a*  
2 *screening made pursuant to this section shall be assessed by the*  
3 *county mental health plan for specialty mental health services. If*  
4 *a child is determined not to be eligible for specialty mental health*  
5 *services after an assessment by a specialty mental health plan*  
6 *provider, the child shall be referred for other necessary health*  
7 *care, diagnostic services, treatment and other measures described*  
8 *in Section 1396d of Title 42 of the United States Code to correct*  
9 *or ameliorate any trauma-related defects and physical and mental*  
10 *illnesses and conditions.*

11     (d) *“Trauma,” as used in this section, is defined as any*  
12 *physiological response to an event, series of events, or set of*  
13 *circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically*  
14 *or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting*  
15 *adverse effects on the individual’s functional and mental, physical,*  
16 *social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.*