

Introduced by Senator Marks

February 21, 1996

An act to add Section 1569.159 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to residential care facilities for the elderly.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1688, as introduced, Marks. Residential care facilities for the elderly.

Existing law provides for the licensure of residential care facilities for the elderly by the State Department of Social Services. Existing law makes a violation of these provisions a misdemeanor.

This bill would require a residential care facility for the elderly to provide in all intake documents and contracts between the resident or person applying for residence, that any hearing, speech, vision, or mobility impaired resident has the right to free equipment and service from the telephone company to improve the quality of their telecommunications.

By imposing this requirement on residential care facilities for the elderly, this bill would change the definition of a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

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 1569.159 is added to the Health
2 and Safety Code, immediately after Section 1569.158, to
3 read:

4 1569.159. A residential care facility for the elderly
5 shall provide the following information in a prominent
6 place in all intake documents and contracts between the
7 resident, or person applying for residence, and the
8 facility:

9 “Any hearing, speech, vision, or mobility impaired
10 resident of any residential care facility for the elderly is
11 entitled to free equipment and service by the telephone
12 company to improve the quality of their
13 telecommunications. Any resident who has a declaration
14 from a licensed physician that he or she is hearing, speech,
15 vision, or mobility impaired should contact the local
16 telephone company and ask for assistance in obtaining
17 this equipment and service.”

18 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act
19 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
20 Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred
21 by a local agency or school district will be incurred
22 because this act creates a new crime or infraction,
23 eliminates a crime or infraction, within the meaning of
24 Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the
25 definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of
26 Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

27 Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government
28 Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act
29 shall become operative on the same date that the act
30 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

