

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 19, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 19, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 14, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 505

Introduced by Assembly Member Nazarian

February 20, 2013

An act to add Section 14029.91 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 505, as amended, Nazarian. Medi-Cal: managed care: language assistance services.

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. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Under existing law, one of the methods by which Medi-Cal services are provided is pursuant to contracts with various types of managed care plans.

This bill would require the department to require all managed care plans contracting with the department to provide Medi-Cal services, except as specified, to provide language assistance services, which includes oral interpretation and translation services, to

limited-English-proficient Medi-Cal beneficiaries, as defined. The bill would require the department to determine when a limited-English-proficient population meets the requirement for translation services, as prescribed.

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 14029.91 is added to the Welfare and
 2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 14029.91. (a) The department shall require all managed care
 4 plans contracting with the department to provide Medi-Cal services
 5 to provide language assistance services to
 6 limited-English-proficient (LEP) Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are
 7 mandatorily enrolled in managed care in the following manner:

8 (1) Oral interpretation services shall be provided in any language
 9 on a 24-hour basis at key points of contact.

10 (2) Translation services shall be provided to the language groups
 11 identified by the department.

12 (b) The department shall determine when an LEP population
 13 meets the requirement for translation services using one of the
 14 following numeric thresholds:

15 (1) A population group of ~~3,000~~ *at least 3,000 or 5 percent of*
 16 *the beneficiary population, whichever is fewer, mandatory*
 17 ~~Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mandatorily enrolled in managed~~
 18 ~~care~~, residing in the service area, who indicate their primary
 19 language as other than English.

20 (2) A population group of *mandatory* Medi-Cal beneficiaries
 21 ~~who are mandatorily enrolled in managed care~~, residing in the
 22 service area, who indicate their primary language as other than
 23 English, and that meet a concentration standard of 1,000
 24 beneficiaries in a single ZIP Code or 1,500 beneficiaries in two
 25 contiguous ZIP Codes.

26 (c) The department shall make this determination if any of the
 27 following occurs:

28 (1) A nonmanaged care county becomes a new managed care
 29 county.

30 (2) A new population group becomes a mandatory Medi-Cal
 31 managed care beneficiary population.

1 (3) A period of three years has passed since the last
2 determination.

3 (d) The department shall instruct managed care plans, by means
4 of incorporating the requirement into plan contracts, all-plan letters,
5 or similar instructions, of the language groups that meet the
6 numeric thresholds.

7 (e) For purposes of this section, a person is
8 “limited-English-proficient” if he or she speaks English less than
9 very well.

10 (f) This section shall not apply to mental health plans contracting
11 with the department pursuant to Section 14712.

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