

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1257**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Gray**

February 27, 2015

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An act to ~~amend Section 14131.10~~ *add Article 5.8 (commencing with Section 14188) to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1257, as amended, Gray. Medi-Cal: ~~optional benefits.~~ *ground ambulance rates.*

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income persons receive health care ~~benefits.~~ *services, including medical transportation services.* The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid provisions. Existing law provides, except as specified, that certain optional Medi-Cal benefits, including, among others, certain adult dental services and optometric and optician services, are excluded from coverage under the Medi-Cal program. Existing law, beginning May 1, 2014, or the effective date of any necessary federal financial participation approvals, whichever is later, provides that only specified adult dental services are a covered Medi-Cal benefit for persons who are 21 years of age or older, as ~~specified.~~ *Existing law and regulations prescribe various requirements governing payment policies and reimbursement rates for these services.*

This bill would ~~make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this provision.~~ *require the State Department of Health Care Services to*

*establish payment rates for ground ambulance services based on changes in the Consumer Price Index-Urban and the Geographic Practice Cost Index, and would require the department to designate a specified ambulance cost study conducted by the federal Government Accountability Office as the evidentiary base.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Article 5.8 (commencing with Section 14188) is  
2 added to Chapter 7 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and  
3 Institutions Code, to read:

4  
5 Article 5.8. Ground Ambulance Service Rates  
6

7 14188. The department shall establish payment rates for ground  
8 ambulance services based on changes in the Consumer Price  
9 Index-Urban (CPI-U) and the California weighted average  
10 Geographic Practice Cost Index and shall designate the ambulance  
11 cost study conducted by the federal Government Accountability  
12 Office (GAO-07-383) as the evidentiary base.

13 SECTION 1. Section 14131.10 of the Welfare and Institutions  
14 Code is amended to read:

15 14131.10. ~~(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this~~  
16 ~~chapter, Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200), or Chapter~~  
17 ~~8.75 (commencing with Section 14591), in order to implement~~  
18 ~~changes in the level of funding for health care services, specific~~  
19 ~~optional benefits are excluded from coverage under the Medi-Cal~~  
20 ~~program.~~

21 (b) (1) The following optional benefits are excluded from  
22 coverage under the Medi-Cal program:

- 23 (A) Adult dental services, except as specified in paragraph (2).
- 24 (B) Acupuncture services.
- 25 (C) Audiology services and speech therapy services.
- 26 (D) Chiropractic services.
- 27 (E) Optometric and optician services, including services  
28 provided by a fabricating optical laboratory.
- 29 (F) Podiatric services.
- 30 (G) Psychology services.

1     (H) Incontinence creams and washes.  
2     (2) (A) ~~Medical and surgical services provided by a doctor of~~  
3 ~~dental medicine or dental surgery, which, if provided by a~~  
4 ~~physician, would be considered physician services, and which~~  
5 ~~services may be provided by either a physician or a dentist in this~~  
6 ~~state, are covered.~~  
7     (B) ~~Emergency procedures are also covered in the categories~~  
8 ~~of service specified in subparagraph (A). The director may adopt~~  
9 ~~regulations for any of the services specified in subparagraph (A).~~  
10    (C) ~~Effective May 1, 2014, or the effective date of any necessary~~  
11 ~~federal approvals as required by subdivision (f), whichever is later,~~  
12 ~~for persons who are 21 years of age or older, adult dental benefits,~~  
13 ~~subject to utilization controls, are limited to all the following~~  
14 ~~medically necessary services:~~  
15     (i) ~~Examinations, radiographs/photographic images, prophylaxis,~~  
16 ~~and fluoride treatments.~~  
17     (ii) ~~Amalgam and composite restorations.~~  
18     (iii) ~~Stainless steel, resin, and resin window crowns.~~  
19     (iv) ~~Anterior root canal therapy.~~  
20     (v) ~~Complete dentures, including immediate dentures.~~  
21     (vi) ~~Complete denture adjustments, repairs, and relines.~~  
22    (D) ~~Services specified in this paragraph shall be included as a~~  
23 ~~covered medical benefit under the Medi-Cal program pursuant to~~  
24 ~~Section 14132.89.~~  
25    (3) ~~Pregnancy-related services and services for the treatment of~~  
26 ~~other conditions that might complicate the pregnancy are not~~  
27 ~~excluded from coverage under this section.~~  
28    (e) ~~The optional benefit exclusions do not apply to either of the~~  
29 ~~following:~~  
30     (1) ~~Beneficiaries under the Early and Periodic Screening~~  
31 ~~Diagnosis and Treatment Program.~~  
32     (2) ~~Beneficiaries receiving long-term care in a nursing facility~~  
33 ~~that is both:~~  
34        (A) ~~A skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility as~~  
35 ~~defined in subdivisions (e) and (d) of Section 1250 of the Health~~  
36 ~~and Safety Code.~~  
37        (B) ~~Licensed pursuant to subdivision (k) of Section 1250 of the~~  
38 ~~Health and Safety Code.~~  
39     (d) ~~This section shall only be implemented to the extent~~  
40 ~~permitted by federal law.~~

- 1     ~~(e) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section~~  
2     ~~11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,~~  
3     ~~the department may implement the provisions of this section by~~  
4     ~~means of all-county letters, provider bulletins, or similar~~  
5     ~~instructions, without taking further regulatory action.~~
- 6     ~~(f) The department shall seek approval for federal financial~~  
7     ~~participation and coverage of services specified in subparagraph~~  
8     ~~(C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) under the Medi-Cal~~  
9     ~~program.~~
- 10    ~~(g) This section, except as specified in subparagraph (C) of~~  
11    ~~paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), shall be implemented on the first~~  
12    ~~day of the month following 90 days after the operative date of this~~  
13    ~~section.~~