

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 1998
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 20, 1998
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 7, 1998
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 8, 1997

SENATE BILL

No. 694

Introduced by Senator Polanco
(Coauthor: Senator Alpert)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Granlund)

February 25, 1997

An act to add Part 7 (commencing with Section 122400) to Division 105 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to hepatitis.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 694, as amended, Polanco. Hepatitis C.

Existing law contains various provisions relating to communicable disease prevention and control programs, including those conducted by the State Department of Health Services.

This bill would make various legislative findings with respect to hepatitis C and would declare the intent of the Legislature to study the adequacy of the health care delivery system as it pertains to hepatitis C.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to ~~use any strategies,~~ *make available* protocols, and guidelines ~~adopted~~ *developed* by the National Institutes of Health and California legislative advisory committees on

hepatitis C for educating physicians and health professionals and training community service providers, 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. Part 7 (commencing with Section
2 122400) is added to Division 105 of the Health and Safety
3 Code, to read:

4
5 PART 7. HEPATITIS C

6
7 CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

8
9 122400. This chapter shall be known, and may be
10 cited, as the Hepatitis C Education, Screening, and
11 Treatment Act.

12 122405. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all
13 of the following:

14 (a) Hepatitis C is classified as a silent killer, where no
15 recognizable signs or symptoms occur until severe liver
16 damage has occurred.

17 (b) Hepatitis C has been characterized by the World
18 Health Organization as a disease of primary concern to
19 humanity.

20 (c) Studies indicate that 1.8 percent of the population,
21 nearly 4 million Americans, carry the virus HCV that
22 causes hepatitis C. In California, as many as 500,000
23 individuals may be carriers and could develop the
24 debilitating and potentially deadly liver disease
25 associated with hepatitis C in their lifetime. An expert
26 panel, convened in March by the National Institutes of
27 Health (NIH), estimated that 30,000 acute new infections
28 occur each year in the United States, and only 25 to 30
29 percent of those are diagnosed. Current data sources
30 indicate that 8,000 to 10,000 Americans die from hepatitis
31 C each year.

32 (d) Studies also indicate that 39.4 percent of male
33 inmates and 54.5 percent of female inmates in California



1 correctional facilities have hepatitis C, 26 times higher
2 than the general population. Upon their release from
3 prison, these inmates present a significant health risk to
4 the general population of California.

5 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature to study the
6 adequacy of the health care delivery system as it pertains
7 to hepatitis C.

8 122410. (a) The State Department of Health Services
9 ~~shall use any strategies, protocols, and guidelines adopted~~
10 *shall make available protocols and guidelines developed*
11 by the National Institutes of Health and California
12 legislative advisory committees on hepatitis C for
13 educating physicians and health professionals and
14 training community service providers on the most recent
15 scientific and medical information on hepatitis C
16 detection, diagnosis, treatment, and therapeutic
17 decisionmaking.

18 ~~(b) The guidelines required by subdivision (a) shall~~

19 *(b) The guidelines referenced in subdivision (a) may*
20 include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

21 ~~(1) Tracing—Proposals for tracking~~ and reporting of
22 both acute and chronic cases of hepatitis C by public
23 health officials.

24 ~~(2) A—Proposals for a~~ cost-efficient plan to screen the
25 prison population and the medically indigent population
26 in California.

27 ~~(3) Protocols—Proposals for protocols~~ within the
28 Department of Corrections to enable that department to
29 provide appropriate treatment to prisoners with hepatitis
30 C.

31 ~~(4) Protocols—Proposals for protocols~~ for the education
32 of correctional peace officers and other correctional
33 workers who work with prisoners with hepatitis C.

34 ~~(5) Protocols—Proposals for protocols~~ for public safety
35 and health care workers who come in contact with
36 hepatitis C patients.

37 ~~(6) Proposals for surveillance programs to determine~~
38 *the prevalence of hepatitis C in ethnic and other high-risk*
39 *populations.*



1 (7) *Proposals for education programs for high-risk*
2 *individuals shall include, but not be limited to, individuals*
3 *who received blood transfusions prior to 1992,*
4 *hemophiliacs, veterans, students, and minority*
5 *communities.*

6 (8) *Education programs may provide information and*
7 *referral on hepatitis C including, but not limited to,*
8 *education materials developed by health-related*
9 *companies, community-based or national advocacy*
10 *organizations, counseling, patient support groups, and*
11 *existing hotlines for consumers.*

