



Maternal and Child Health Related Final Legislation
California State Legislature
2005-2006 Session

Background

Maternal and Child Health Access and PAC/LAC created the following list of MCH-related current legislation. The 2005-2006 session was a two-year session. These bills have been either approved or vetoed by the Governor. For a list of bills passed and signed in prior years, and for more bills in 2006 that did not reach the Governor's desk, see www.mchaccess.org. This is a bipartisan list; our organizations do not necessarily support or oppose the bills listed.

Please let us know of bills we may have missed! See our contact information below.

Legislation Approved or Vetoed by the Governor

Access and Insurance Coverage

AB 774

Author: Assemblymember Wilma Chan

Topic: Hospital Self-Pay Policies

Status: Enrolled on 9/11/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor 9/29/06.

This bill would require each hospital to develop a policy specifying how the hospital will determine financial liability for services rendered to both financially qualified patients and self-pay patients, as defined. The bill would require the policy to include a section addressing charity care patients that specifies the financial criteria and the procedure used by the hospital to determine whether a patient is eligible for charity care. The bill would require each hospital to perform various functions in connection with the hospital self-pay policy, including notifying patients of the policy, and attempting to determine the availability of private or public health insurance coverage for each patient. The bill would also specify billing and collection procedures to be followed by a hospital, its assignee, collection agency, or billing service.

AB 1840

Author: Assemblymember Jerome Horton

Topic: Health Care: Employer Coverage: Disclosure

Status: Enrolled 9/11/06 and **VETOED** by Governor 9/30/06.

This bill would require the State to disclose names and employers who, rather than providing health coverage, have their workers and their families on Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Program.

AB 2742

Author: Assemblymember Pedro Nava

Topic: Family planning: Medi-Cal: Family PACT program

Status: Enrolled on 9/19/06 and **VETOED** by Governor 9/29/06.

Amended as follows: This bill would have: 1) Required that all Medi-Cal Managed Care plans comply with the same regulations as FFACT providers, including gathering data 2) Made all Medi-Cal family planning services the same as FFACT 3) would prohibit a Medi-Cal managed care plan from restricting the choice of an enrollee

regarding the provider from whom the enrollee may receive family planning services, so long as the provider is a Medi-Cal provider.4) Codified the requirement that out of plan providers be reimbursed at the applicable Medi-Cal rate in a timely way.

AB 2889

Author: Assembly Member Dario Frommer
Topic: Discrimination in coverage
Status: Enrolled on 9/18/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/30/06

In certain instances, prohibits health plans from discriminating against people who have been insured, but who have chronic or serious illnesses.

SB 437

Authors: Senator Martha Escutia
Topic: California Healthy Kids Insurance Program
Status: Enrolled on 9/01/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

Originally the statewide children's health coverage bill sponsored by the 100% Campaign and PICO California to cover all children in California. This bill as passed will address Medi-Cal and Healthy Families improvements: 1) create a pilot project for self-certification of income for Medi-Cal in two counties in which about 10% of the state's Medi-Cal population resides, then evaluate the program 2) allows self-certification of income at renewal for Healthy Families 3) Provides for expedited enrollment at county welfare offices for children who appear eligible for Healthy Families 4) provides that the "bridge" to Healthy Families from Medi-Cal continue until a final eligibility determination for Healthy Families is made, instead of cutting off the Medi-Cal at two months and creates an enrollment gateway from WIC to Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

SB 458

Author: Senator Jackie Speier
Topic: Basic Health Care: Counties
Status: Enrolled 8/30/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/30/06.

This bill would authorize, until January 1, 2009, a pilot project in which up to 200,000 employees at any one time may be enrolled, and for which nonprofit community health centers, nonprofit primary care clinics, nonprofit federally qualified health centers, and look-alikes, may accept prepayment from an administering health care service plan or health insurer for provider services for up to one month at a time. This bill also allows special county commissions established in San Mateo, San Bernardino, Ventura, and other counties with commissions pertaining to the delivery of publicly assisted medical care, to expand the scope of the commissions to include meeting the problems of a lack of access to affordable health care coverage. The bill authorizes the commissions to offer coverage for both publicly assisted medical care and privately financed medical care for both the residents of the county and residents of other counties if the commission's governing body determines that there exists a need for affordable coverage in other counties.

SB 840

Author: Senator Sheila Kuehl
Topic: Single Payer Health Care Coverage
Status: Enrolled 9/18/06 and **VETOED** by Governor on 9/22/06.

This bill would establish the California Health Insurance System to be administered by the newly created California Health Insurance Agency under the control of an elected Health Insurance Commissioner. The bill would make all California residents eligible for specified health care benefits under the California Health Insurance System, provided on a single-payer basis, operational within two years. The bill also establishes various offices within the agency to protect consumer rights, establish quality of care standards and plan for the health care needs of the population. Related bill: SB 1779.

SB 1414

Author: Senator Carole Migden
Topic: California Fair Share Health Care Act

Status: Enrolled on 9/11/06 and **VETOED** by the Governor on 9/13/06.

This bill would require for-profit employers with more than 10,000 workers to spend at least 8% of their payroll costs on health care for employees.

SB 1528

Author: Senator Debra Bowen

Topic: Medi-Cal: Covered Services: Pregnancy

Status: Enrolled on 9/06/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/29/06.

This bill would provide coverage for home infusion treatments with tocolytic agents for pregnant women in the Medi-Cal fee-for-service program, subject to utilization controls and clinical guidelines.

SB 1569

Author: Senator Sheila Kuehl

Topic: Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence

Status: Enrolled on 9/07/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor 9/29/06.

This bill ensures that immigrant victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes have access to state and local services such as securing critical medical care, mental health and basic assistance that will help obtain safe housing, food and supportive services. The bill will treat these survivors like refugees for purposes of determining eligibility for state and local benefits and services.

SB 1702

Author: Senator Jackie Speier

Topic: Managed Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIB) Coverage

Status: Enrolled on 9/11 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/29/06

Extends the sunset for the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Program, which provides health insurance for Californians unable to obtain coverage in the individual health insurance market because of their pre-existing conditions.

AB 1851

Author: Assemblymember Joe Coto

Topic: Healthy Families Program: Enrollment Process

Status: Enrolled 8/24/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

This bill will allow health, dental and vision plans to continue providing application assistance directly to Healthy Family applicants if referred by a government agency, school or school district.

AB 1948

Author: Assemblymember Cindy Montanez

Topic: Medi-Cal program: Healthy Families Program: Child Health and Disability (CHDP) Program

Status: Enrolled 9/11/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

This bill would require the Department of Health Services to set in motion the process to modify the current two-step CHDP Gateway application process so that families could, at their option, simultaneously preenroll and apply for enrollment into the Healthy Families Program or Medi-Cal program when they apply for the CHDP Gateway. Continuing preliminary benefits would be effective until a final eligibility determination is made. The first step is a "Feasibility Study Review" (FSR). Required by state law provisions adopted in 2002, the FSR is now the first mandatory step for certain computer upgrades at State DHS. **This is an MCH Access sponsored bill.**

AB 2060

Author: Assemblymember Hector de la Torre

Topic: Naturalization Services Program

Status: Enrolled 8/24/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor 9/27/06.

This bill will help provide and develop naturalization services for California's immigrants. It would make the state's Naturalization Services Program permanent while guaranteeing services for thousands of immigrants eligible to naturalize in California.

AB 2379

Author: Assemblymember Wilma Chan
Topic: Medi-Cal: Children with special care needs
Status: Enrolled on 9/05/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

This bill ensures that, for the next six years, children who are Medi-Cal managed care enrollees and have complex medical needs are treated through the California Children's Services network of specialty/subspecialty providers and special care centers, thereby helping to protect the health of vulnerable children.

AB 2889

Author: Assemblymember Dario Frommer
Topic: Health care coverage: federally eligible defined individual
Status: Enrolled on 9/19/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/30/06.

Under existing law, health plans are prohibited from declining to cover or enroll a federally eligible defined individual and are also prohibited from imposing a preexisting condition exclusion with respect to such a person. Existing law defines a federally eligible defined individual, in part, as an individual who has had 18 months of creditable coverage, with the most recent coverage being under a group plan. This bill would expand the definition by instead requiring that the person have had creditable coverage under any of a list of health plans, policies, or programs.

SB 1448

Author: Senator Sheila Kuehl
Topic: Health care: Medi-Cal uninsured persons
Status: Enrolled on 7/06/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 7/18/06.

Upon implementation of the hospital funding waiver and subject to federal financial participation, this bill will enact the Health Care Coverage Initiative Act to expand health care coverage to uninsured individuals. The bill would require that the initiative be designed and implemented to achieve specified outcomes, including expanding the number of Californians who have health care coverage. It would require the department to award the funds made available from the Health Care Support Fund to fund the initiative, and to make awards to programs that best meet the requirements and desired outcomes of the initiative. The bill would provide that a county, city and county, or consortium of more than one county is eligible to apply for the initiative funds, would specify application requirements, and would require the department to make awards to at least three entities and to seek to balance the awards throughout geographic areas of the state. Awards would be made for a 3-year period, and grantees would be required to provide local matching funds necessary to claim federal funds. The bill would require that federal funds under the initiative supplement, and not supplant, funds that would otherwise be used for health care services, and would limit the amount of award payments that may be used for program administration. **This bill would declare take effect immediately as an urgency statute.**

Child Health

AB 264

Author: Assemblymember Wilma Chan
Topic: Health Care Service Plans: Pediatric Asthma
Status: Enrolled on 9/06/06 and **VETOED** by Governor on 9/28/06.

This bill would require a health care service plan contract, as specified, to include coverage for outpatient training and education necessary to use the medications and devices prescribed for the treatment of pediatric asthma for an enrollee who meets certain criteria.

AB 525**Author:** Assemblymember Judy Chu**Topic:** Child Abuse Reporting**Status:** Enrolled on 9/06/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/29/06.

This bill would expand the existing definition of the term “child abuse or neglect” for the purposes of mandatory reporting of suspected instances of child abuse or neglect, to include instances where a child suffers or is at substantial risk of suffering serious emotional damage.

AB 1745**Author:** Assemblymember Wilma Chan**Topic:** Medi-Cal: Pediatric Palliative Care**Status:** Enrolled on 9/12/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

This bill would require the California Department of Health Services to develop, implement and evaluate a pilot project waiver to provide a pediatric palliative care benefit, which would include those services that are available through the Medi-Cal hospice benefit. This bill will help kids live longer and have a better quality of life during treatment by having the Department of Health Services seek a federal waiver to allow children receiving hospice services to also receive curative treatments.

AB 2560**Author:** Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas**Topic:** Public School Health Center Support Program**Status:** Enroll on 9/11/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

This bill requires the California Department of Health Services, in cooperation with the California Department of Education, to establish a Public School Health Center Support Program to support Californian’s school health centers by increasing cross-agency collaboration, gathering data about services delivered in school health centers throughout the state and in providing technical assistance to aid in the development of new and existing school health centers.

AB 2651**Author:** Assemblymember Dave Jones**Topic:** Newborns: Hearing Screening**Status:** Enrolled on 9/18/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

This amended bill would expand the Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening, Tracking, and Intervention Act, beyond CCS-covered facilities, to include every birthing center or clinic or general acute care hospital with licensed perinatal services, such that all parents of a newborn, upon birth admission, are offered a hearing screening test for the identification of hearing loss in their infant. It would permit certain hospitals to contract for the provisions of this service. This is a March of Dimes sponsored bill.

Environmental Exposure

SB 600**Author:** Senator Deborah Ortiz**Topic:** Biomonitoring Toxic Chemicals in Californians**Status:** Enrolled on 9/15/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/29/06

This bill would require the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control within the department to establish the Healthy Californians Biomonitoring Program to monitor the presence and concentration of designated chemicals, as defined, in Californians. The This bill would require the department and the agency to establish an advisory panel to assist the department and the agency. The bill would establish the Healthy Californians Biomonitoring Fund for deposit of funds, for expenditure by the department and agency upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the biomonitoring program. The bill would require the department to provide public access to information, and to report to the Legislature and the public.

AB 1953**Author:** Assemblymember Wilma Chan**Topic:** Lead in Tap Water**Status:** Enrolled on 9/12/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/30/06

Reduces the allowable lead content in pipes and plumbing fixtures; by 2010, requires that the term "lead free" refers to a new standard reduced from 8% and 4% to no more than .25% to be determined pursuant to a prescribed formula. Many cities in California, but not all, have met these standards.

AB 1681**Author:** Assemblymember Fran Pavley**Topic:** Lead-Containing Jewelry**Status:** Enrolled on 9/15/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/22/06.

This bill would prohibit on or after July 1, 2007, the sale, promotion, and importation of metal jewelry, or any metal component of jewelry, with more than 600 parts per million total lead. Similar restrictions would apply to non-metal jewelry containing more than 200 parts per million total lead, and any leaded crystal jewelry yielding more than 90 micrograms of accessible lead. Legislative findings about the harmful effects of lead are included in the bill.

Infectious Diseases

SB 699**Author:** Senator Nell Soto**Topic:** HIV and AIDS Reporting**Status:** Enrolled 4/06/06 and **APPROVED** by the Governor on 4/17/06.

Existing law requires that public health records relating to HIV and AIDS, containing personally identifying information, that was developed or acquired by state or local public health agencies be confidential, and prohibits the disclosure of those records, except as otherwise provided for by law for public health purposes or pursuant to a written authorization by the person who is the subject of the record or by this or her guardian or conservator. This bill would, to ensure knowledge of current trends in the HIV epidemic and to assure that California remains competitive for federal HIV and AIDS funding, require health care providers and laboratories to report cases of HIV infection to the local health officer using patient names. It would require local health officers to report unduplicated HIV cases by name to the State Department of Health Services. The bill would also require the department to promulgate specified regulations, not later than one year from the effective date of the provisions of the bill and would make various other changes related to the disclosure of information on HIV cases to federal, state and local health agencies.

SJR 22**Author:** Senator Jackie Speier**Topic:** Microbicide Development Act**Status:** Enrolled 8/31/06 and Chaptered by the Secretary of State on 8/31/06.

This legislation would memorialize the United State Congress and the President to enact the Microbicide Development Act (S 550 and HR 385). This Act will strengthen and accelerate microbicide research and development at the National Institutes of Health, the US Agency for International Development and the Centers for Disease Control. Microbicides are products, such as a cream or gel, which would prevent transmission of HIV and other STDs.

Maternal and Child Health Miscellaneous

AB 1907**Author:** Assemblymember Ted Lieu**Topic:** Office of Child Abuse Prevention: Multidisciplinary Personnel**Status:** Enrolled on 7/10/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 7/21/06.

This bill would revise the definition of “multidisciplinary personnel” for purposes of child abuse prevention services to include marriage and family therapists.

AB 2108

Author: Assemblymember Noreen Evans
Topic: Child health: car safety seat or booster
Status: Enrolled 9/06/06 and VETOED by Governor on 9/29/06.

This bill mandates use of a car safety seat or booster up to age eight unless the child is 4’9” or taller. It requires children 12 and under to ride in the back seat, with some exceptions, and babies to ride in a rear-facing safety seat until they reach both one year and 20 pounds.

SB 246

Author: Senator Liz Figueroa
Topic: Human Milk
Status: Enrolled on 9/01/06 and APPROVED by Governor on 9/26/06.

This bill would exempt a hospital from the tissue bank licensure and regulation requirements for the purpose of collecting, processing, storing, or distributing human milk, and would exempt human milk to be given to the infant of the woman who expressed the milk from any screening test requirement. This bill would also require a hospital that collects, processes, stores, or distributes human milk to comply with specified standards set forth on the effective date of the bill. **Co-sponsored by PAC/LAC.**

SB 1668

Author: Senator Debra Bowen
Topic: Child Death: Review Teams
Status: Enrolled on 8/29/06 and APPROVED by Governor on 9/30/06.

This bill would provide that an oral or written communication or a document shared within or produced by a child death review team related to a child death review, provided by a third party to the child death review team, or between a third party and a child death review team is confidential and not subject to disclosure or discoverable by a third party. This bill also would provide an exception to these rules of nondisclosure for recommendations of a child review death team at the discretion of a majority of the members of the team.

Mental Health

AB 2317

Author: Assemblymember Paul Koretz
Topic: Postpartum Mood and Anxiety Disorders
Status: Enrolled 8/24/06 and VETOED by Governor 9/28/06.

This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to conduct the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) Awareness Campaign to increase awareness and provide education to pregnant women and new mothers on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders, including postpartum depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and postpartum psychosis.

SB 1356

Author: Senator Alan Lowenthal
Topic: Suicide Prevention
Status: Enrolled 8/30/06 and VETOED by Governor on 9/28/06.

This bill establishes the Suicide Prevention Act of 2006 which requires the Department of Mental Health (DMH) in consultation with impacted state and local boards and departments to implement a comprehensive suicide prevention plan.

Nursing and Physician Workforce

SB 912

Author: Senator Denise Ducheny
Topic: Medi-Cal Provider Reimbursement
Status: **APPROVED** by Governor on 2/17/06.

This bill eliminated the 5% provider rate reductions with respect to Medi-Cal program services for dates of service commencing 14 days after the effective date of the bill and ending on January 1, 2007, to the extent that federal financial participation is available for the increase provided for in these provisions. The bill exempted from elimination the reduction in payments to managed health care plans.

SB 1596

Author: Senator George Runner
Topic: Nurse-Family Partnership Program
Status: Enrolled 9/13/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/30/06.

This bill would establish the Nurse-Family Partnership program, which would be administered and implemented by the State Department of Health Services, for purposes of making grants to eligible participating counties for the provision of voluntary registered nurse home visiting services for expectant first-time low-income mothers, their children, and their families.

SB 1638

Author: Senator Liz Figueroa
Topic: Midwives: Supervision
Status: Enrolled on 9/06/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/28/06.

This amended bill would provide for the creation of a Midwifery Advisory Council, as specified, and would require each licensed midwife who assists, or supervises a student midwife in assisting, in childbirth occurring in an out-of-hospital setting to annually report to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development certain information regarding his or her practice for the previous year.

Nutrition

AB 469

Author: Assemblymember Leland Yee
Topic: Nutrition guidelines: Public School Food
Status: Enrolled on 9/08/06 and **VETOED** by Governor on 9/29/06.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to develop and maintain nutrition guidelines for school lunches and breakfasts, and for all food and beverages sold on public school campuses. This bill would require the department to develop and maintain those guidelines for all food and beverages served on public school campuses. The bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 569

Author: Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia
Topic: Pupil Nutrition – Food Service
Status: Enrolled on 9/05/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/29/06.

This bill, commencing on January 1, 2007, would require a school district that elects to contract with a commercial food vendor to prepare or provide food for sale to pupils on a school campus to make information available on the nutritional content of all food items sold.

AB 2384

Author: Assemblymember Mark Leno
Topic: Healthy Food Purchase Pilot Program
Status: Enrolled 9/12/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/13/06.

This bill would create the “Healthy Food Purchase” pilot program to increase the sale and purchase of fresh food and vegetables in low-income communities contingent on state and federal funding. It would stimulate supply as well as demand for fresh fruit and vegetables in low-income communities by providing technical assistance and alternative financing methods to grocers and financial incentives for food stamp recipients.

Public Health

AB 576

Author: Assemblymember Lois Wolk

Topic: Immunizations: Data sharing

Status: Enrolled on 8/28/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/19/06.

This bill would make it easier to share data regarding immunizations thereby strengthening California’s immunization registries. The bill requires the California Department of Health Services to develop a plan for the expansion of existing registries and the creation of a statewide immunization registry to improve public health, better serve children and reduce health care costs.

AB 2918

Author: Assemblymember Lois Wolk

Topic: Medi-Cal: county organized health system

Status: Enrolled on 9/05/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/30/06.

Currently, some county organized health systems (COHS) can provide managed care services beyond the Medi-Cal population and some COHSs cannot. This bill would allow all COHSs to provide services beyond Medi-Cal to other individuals and groups, conforming their authority to that of the Local Initiatives.

SB 1534

Author: Senator Deborah Ortiz

Topic: Public Health: Providing care and services

Status: Enrolled on 9/27/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/30/06.

This bill affirms existing law, confirming that local governments are entitled to protect public health by providing care and services to all of the state’s residents.

Reproductive Health and Perinatal Care

AB 2251

Author: Assemblymember Noreen Evans

Topic: Reproductive Health Care Services: Confidentiality of Personal Information

Status ; Enrolled on 8/30/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/26/06.

This bill protects the personal safety of reproductive health care providers, employees, volunteers and patients by prohibiting the posting of such people’s personal information on the Internet, under specified circumstances.

SB 603

Author: Senator Deborah Ortiz

Topic: Anti-Reproductive Rights Crimes

Status: Enrolled 9/07/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/26/06.

The bill would require the Commission on the Status of Women, and others, to report on the implementation of the Reproductive Rights Law Enforcement Act and the effectiveness of the plan created by the Attorney General.

SB 1471

Author: Senator Sheila Kuehl

Topic: Sex Education Accuracy

Status: Enrolled on 9/6/06 and **VETOED** by Governor 9/29/06

This bill would have required that state-funded community-based pregnancy prevention and STI-prevention programs be medically accurate and comprehensive.

SB 1555

Author: Senator Jackie Speier

Topic: Umbilical Cord Blood Banking: Education

Status: Enrolled on 9/12/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/26/06.

This amended bill would require that a primary prenatal care provider of a pregnant woman provide to her, by the end of the 2nd trimester (28th week), standardized, objective information developed by the State Department of Health Services regarding her options with respect to umbilical cord blood banking. This information would include but not be limited to the following: 1) The current and potential future medical uses of stored umbilical cord blood 2) The benefits and risks involved in umbilical cord blood banking 3) The medical process involved in umbilical cord blood banking 4) Medical or family history criteria that can impact a family's consideration of umbilical cord banking 5) An explanation of the differences between public and private umbilical cord blood banking 6) The availability and costs of public or private umbilical cord blood banks 7) An explanation that the practices and policies of blood banks may vary and how. The information provided by the department shall be made available in Cantonese, English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Safety

AB 1873

Author: Assemblymember Alberto Torrico

Topic: Child Protection: Safe Surrender

Status: Enrolled on 9/06/06 and **VETOED** by Governor on 9/30/06.

The existing "Safe-Surrender" Law allows a parent or other person with lawful custody of a child 72 hours old or younger to safely surrender the newborn child at a designated safe-surrender location. This amended bill would change the existing law to allow a child up to thirty days old to be safely surrendered.

Medical Debt and Hospital Billing Practices

AB 2950

Author: Assemblymember Lynn Daucher

Topic: Medi-Cal billing reductions

Status: Enrolled 8/16/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 8/21/06.

Under existing law, a bill submitted by a provider for a service provided under the Medi-Cal program is required to be submitted not more than 6 months after the month in which the service is rendered, with specified exceptions. Existing law requires that reimbursement for an original claim, submitted for payment between 6 and 12 months after the month of service, and which does not meet an exception, be reduced by 25% to 50%, as specified. This bill would provide that the reductions in reimbursement specified under the above provisions do not apply with respect to certain Medi-Cal programs for which there is no state General Fund match.

SB 1277

Author: Senator Elaine Alquist

Topic: Emergency services and care: reimbursement

Status: Enrolled on 8/30/06 and **APPROVED** by Governor on 9/22/06.

Under the Knox-Keene Act, a health care service plan is required to comply with procedures regarding authorization requests made by providers and is required to reimburse providers for emergency services and care provided to its enrollees. This bill would provide that a request for authorization for emergency services and care, poststabilization care, as defined, or transfer of the enrollee is deemed approved by the health care service plan if it fails to authorize those services within 30 minutes of the provider's initial contact to request authorization. The bill would require the plan to reimburse the provider for the services within a specified time frame. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.