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SB-1108 Medi-Cal: conditions of eligibility or coverage. (2017-2018)

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Senate Bill No. 1108

CHAPTER 692

An act to add Section 14012 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

[Approved by Governor September 22, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1108, Hernandez. Medi-Cal: conditions of eligibility or coverage.

Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and 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. Existing federal guidance authorizes the states to require, through Medicaid demonstration projects, certain adult Medicaid beneficiaries to participate in work or community engagement activities as a condition of continued Medicaid eligibility or coverage.

This bill would authorize the department to seek waivers of federal Medicaid requirements, including, but not limited to, demonstration projects that aim to either increase the number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries or enhance the medical assistance provided to beneficiaries, as specified. The bill would require a waiver proposed by the department, which offers nonmedical benefits to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, to offer these benefits on a voluntary basis, and not as a condition of receiving medical assistance.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 14012 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

14012. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the goal of the Medi-Cal program is to provide comprehensive health care to low-income Californians who cannot afford the cost of health care.

(b) (1) The department may seek waivers of federal Medicaid requirements in furtherance of this goal, including, but not limited to, demonstration projects that aim to either increase the number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries or enhance the medical assistance provided to beneficiaries.

(2) A waiver proposed by the department, which offers nonmedical benefits to Medi-Cal beneficiaries, including, but not limited to, employment or housing assistance, shall offer these benefits on a voluntary basis, and not as a condition of receiving medical assistance.

(c) Prior to applying for a federal waiver or an extension of a federal waiver, the department shall provide a public notice and comment period pursuant to Section 431.408 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, effective April 27, 2012, and any other subsequently developed federal requirements.