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SB-228 Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program. (2025-2026)

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Date Published: 05/24/2025 04:00 AM

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 07, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 228

Introduced by Senator Cervantes

January 28, 2025

An act to add Sections 123486, 123487, 123501, and 123521 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 228, as amended, Cervantes. Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program.

Existing law establishes the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program, the goals of which are to decrease and maintain the decreased level of perinatal, maternal, and infant mortality and morbidity in the State of California and to support methods of providing comprehensive prenatal care that prevent prematurity and the incidence of low birth weight infants. Under the program, the State Department of Public Health is required to develop and maintain a statewide comprehensive community-based perinatal services program and enter into contracts, grants, or agreements with health care providers to deliver these services in a coordinated effort. Existing law also requires the department to monitor the delivery of services under those contracts, grants, and agreements through a uniform health data collection system that utilizes epidemiologic methodology.

This bill would specify that the State Department of Health Care Services is responsible for implementing comprehensive community-based perinatal services for purposes of the Medi-Cal program. By July 1, 2027, the bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health, to clarify each department's roles and responsibilities in the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program by regulation. The bill would, among other things, require the State Department of Health Care Services to develop a training on administering the program, require all perinatal providers in the program to attend the training, and require all Medi-Cal managed care plans to ensure providers receive the training. The bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services, no later than July 15, 2026, to submit to the Assembly Health Committee and the Senate Health Committee, and post on its internet website, ~~a report that identifies reports~~ *that identify* the number of pregnant and postpartum individuals that received *and were offered* Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2025, inclusive. The bill would also require the State Department

of Health Care Services, commencing January 1, 2028, and every 3 years thereafter, to submit to those committees, and post on its internet website, ~~a report that identifies~~ *reports that identify* the number of pregnant and postpartum individuals that received *and were offered* Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services during the previous 3 years. The bill would also state the intent of the Legislature to enact additional legislation relating to the program in order to implement several legislative recommendations made in a specified report issued by the California State Auditor's office including by, among other things, requiring the State Department of Health Care Services to create and use a perinatal services data form to engage in additional data collection ~~duties:~~ *duties, as specified.*

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

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

SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation implementing several recommendations made in California State Auditor Report 2023-103: The Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program to enhance monitoring and oversight of the program:

(a) Clarify that the State Department of Health Care Services is primarily responsible for the delivery of the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program ~~benefits~~ *benefit* as the *single state* agency *pursuant to Section 10740 of the Welfare and Institutions Code* that oversees the Medi-Cal program. It is the intent of the Legislature that the State Department of Health Care Services collaborate with the State Department of Public Health when appropriate.

(b) Require the State Department of Health Care Services to collaborate with the State Department of Public Health on updated regulations related to the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program.

(c) Require the State Department of Health Care Services to develop a system of oversight to ensure that managed care plans and providers *and fee-for-service providers* are aware of and offer Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services to all pregnant and postpartum Medi-Cal ~~members:~~ *beneficiaries.*

(d) Require the State Department of Health Care Services to create and use a perinatal services data form to engage in additional data collection ~~duties:~~ *duties as part of monitoring and overseeing Medi-Cal's Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program benefit in both the managed care and fee-for-service delivery systems.*

SEC. 2. Section 123486 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

123486. Notwithstanding Section 131051, the duties and responsibilities outlined in this article do not supersede the State Department of Health Care Services' authority as the designated single state agency for the administration of the federal Medicaid program *pursuant to Section 10740 of the Welfare and Institutions Code and* as designated in California's Medicaid state plan. As such, ~~in addition to the duties required by the department,~~ the State Department of Health Care Services is ultimately responsible for the implementation of this benefit for the purposes of the Medi-Cal program.

SEC. 3. Section 123487 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

123487. (a) The department shall, in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services, update the regulations related to the statewide comprehensive community-based perinatal services program to clarify the roles and responsibilities from each department and make adjustments to the current monitoring and oversight systems, including the monitoring of managed care plans and fee-for-service providers, by July 1, 2027.

(b) The department shall, in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services, develop a training on administering the perinatal program and require that all perinatal providers in the program attend the ~~training:~~ *training, including managed care plan and fee-for-service providers.*

(c) The department shall, in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services, develop a form for *managed care plan and fee-for-service* providers to collect ~~information~~ *information, starting no later than January 31, 2026*, on the offer and use of perinatal services, and shall share the information collected with the State Department of Health Care Services for inclusion in *all perinatal quality assurance efforts, including* the triennial report required pursuant to Section 123521.

~~(d)The department shall develop and implement a system to verify the information provided pursuant to subdivision (c):~~

SEC. 4. Section 123501 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

123501. (a) The State Department of Health Care Services shall require all Medi-Cal managed care plans to include information on the enhanced perinatal program benefits in the plan member handbooks.

(b) The State Department of Health Care Services shall require all Medi-Cal managed care plans to ensure that providers have received the training described in Section 123487.

(c) ~~The~~ *No later than January 31, 2026, the* State Department of Health Care Services shall implement a system to ensure that Medi-Cal managed care plans *and fee-for-service providers* offer and provide Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services to eligible ~~enrollees~~ *beneficiaries*.

(d) The State Department of Health Care Services shall require Medi-Cal managed care plans, as defined in Section 14184.101 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to conduct quality assurance reviews on perinatal providers at least once every three years, starting in January 2026, to ensure that Medi-Cal managed care plan enrollees are being offered and receive Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services.

(e) The department shall develop and implement a system to verify compliance with subdivision (c).

SEC. 5. Section 123521 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

123521. (a) (1) The State Department of Health Care Services shall, no later than July 15, 2026, submit to the Assembly Health Committee and the Senate Health Committee, and post on its internet website, a report that identifies the number of pregnant and postpartum individuals that received Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2025, inclusive.

(2) The State Department of Health Care Services shall, no later than July 15, 2026, submit to the Assembly Health Committee and the Senate Health Committee, and post on its internet website, a report that identifies the number of pregnant and postpartum individuals that were offered Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2025, inclusive.

~~(2)~~

(3) Commencing January 1, 2028, and every three years thereafter, the State Department of Health Care Services shall submit to the Assembly Health Committee and the Senate Health Committee, and post on its internet website, a report that identifies the number of pregnant and postpartum individuals that received Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services during the previous three years.

(4) Commencing January 1, 2028, and every three years thereafter, the State Department of Health Care Services shall submit to the Assembly Health Committee and the Senate Health Committee, and post on its internet website, a report that identifies the number of pregnant and postpartum individuals that were offered Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program services during the previous three years.

(b) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.