

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1621**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Lowenthal and Rodriguez**

February 6, 2014

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An act to add Section 1797.119 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1621, as introduced, Lowenthal. Emergency medical services: data and information system.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, governs local emergency medical service systems. The act establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority, which is responsible for the coordination and integration of all state agencies concerning emergency medical services. Existing law also creates the Commission on Emergency Medical Services, and requires the commission to perform various duties regarding the authority and emergency medical services.

Existing law requires the authority to develop planning and implementation guidelines for emergency medical services systems that address data collection and evaluation, among other things. Existing law requires the commission to review and approve regulations, standards, and guidelines developed by the authority.

This bill would require the authority to develop and adopt minimum standards for maintaining and implementing a State Emergency Medical Services Data and Information System (SEMSDIS), which would include, among other things, data and information relating to prehospital care and specialty care, for purposes of determining and monitoring the quality and effectiveness of the statewide emergency medical system.

The bill would require emergency medical services providers and hospitals that receive emergency medical services patients to perform specified tasks concerning SEMSDIS. The bill would require the authority to comply with its provisions on or before January 1, 2016.

The bill would also require local EMS agencies to submit specified information to the authority. By imposing new duties on local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1797.119 is added to the Health and  
2 Safety Code, to read:

3 1797.119. (a) (1) The authority shall develop a State  
4 Emergency Medical Services Data and Information System  
5 (SEMSDIS), and, after approval by the commission, adopt  
6 minimum standards for maintaining and implementing SEMSDIS.

7 (2) SEMSDIS shall include, but not be limited to, data and  
8 information relating to prehospital care and specialty care.

9 (3) The purpose of SEMSDIS shall be to determine and monitor  
10 the quality and effectiveness of the statewide emergency medical  
11 system.

12 (4) The authority shall comply with this section on or before  
13 July 1, 2016.

14 (b) Emergency medical services providers shall do all of the  
15 following concerning SEMSDIS:

16 (1) Implement the electronic collection of prehospital care  
17 reports using standard procedures, definitions, and interoperable  
18 coding as adopted by the authority in the minimum standards  
19 described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). For purposes of this  
20 paragraph, "prehospital care reports" include, but are not limited  
21 to, documentation of the event, incident, or medical condition

1 precipitating the need for emergency medical services, the  
2 treatment provided, and the patient’s medical history.

3 (2) Transmit, at the scene of an emergency or during the  
4 transport of the patient to the destination hospital, patient health  
5 information, including, but not limited to, the patient’s approximate  
6 age, body type, and vital statistics, to the destination hospital.

7 (3) Submit completed electronic patient care reports to the local  
8 EMS agency in a timely manner.

9 (c) Hospitals receiving emergency medical services patients  
10 shall do both of the following concerning SEMSDIS:

11 (1) Include local EMS agencies in health information exchange  
12 development with the objective of exchanging critical patient data  
13 with emergency medical services providers through an electronic  
14 interface with the hospital’s electronic health records.

15 (2) Provide patient disposition information to the local EMS  
16 agency for the purpose of quality improvement. For purposes of  
17 this paragraph, “patient disposition information” includes, but is  
18 not limited to, the diagnosis of the patient’s condition and any  
19 treatment provided.

20 (d) Local EMS agencies shall submit patient information to the  
21 authority in a timely manner, using national standards when  
22 available.

23 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
24 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
25 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
26 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
27 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.