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BILL TEXT

CHAPTER 879
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INTRODUCED BY Senator Escutia

FEBRUARY 21, 2003

An act to add Section 123232 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to nutrition, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 875, Escutia. Child and parental nutrition.

Existing law requires the State Department of Health Services to maintain a program of maternal and child health. Existing law requires the department to investigate and disseminate educational information relating to conditions affecting the health of the children of the state.

This bill would require the department to develop or obtain a brochure to educate pregnant women and new parents about issues related to maintaining a healthy lifestyle and preventing chronic diseases in pregnant women, new mothers, and young children. The bill would require the department to include the brochure on the department's Web site. The bill would also require that the brochure be distributed by the department to each individual who contacts the BabyCal program and receives certain information and by a provider to each participant in the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) program, as prescribed. The bill would provide that it shall only be implemented if, and to the extent that, federal or private funds, or both, are available for that purpose.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The obesity and chronic disease rates of children and adults in California have skyrocketed over the past 30 years.

(b) Pregnant women and new mothers are especially at risk for these and other health problems because of time constraints,

increased stress levels, and the need for additional nutritional supplements while breastfeeding.

(c) Children ages 0 to 5 years are also suffering from Type-2 diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure levels, and even cardiovascular disease and cancer because of poor eating habits and lack of physical activity.

(d) These issues are exacerbated in households with lower incomes.

SEC. 2. Section 123232 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

123232. (a) The department shall develop or obtain a brochure to educate pregnant women and new parents about the important role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and preventing chronic diseases of both of the following:

(1) Eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

(2) Staying active every day.

(b) The brochure shall address how proper nutrition and exercise help prevent the development of chronic disease in pregnant women, new mothers, and young children. The brochure shall also include information regarding the critical role of fruits and vegetables in a person's diet, especially as an important source of vitamins and nutrients to new mothers and their breast milk.

(c) The department shall include the brochure on the department's Web site.

(d) The brochure shall be distributed as follows:

(1) By the department to each individual who contacts the BabyCal program and receives a package of information from the program.

(2) By a provider to each participant in the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) program one time during the participant's pregnancy.

(e) The brochure shall be available in both English and Spanish.

(f) This section shall be implemented only if, and to the extent that, federal or private funding, or both, are available for that purpose.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to prevent and control the epidemic of obesity and chronic disease in this state, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.