



WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE - WIC

DIVISION 9. PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES [10000 - 18999.98] (*Division 9 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1784.)*

PART 3. AID AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE [11000 - 15771] (*Part 3 added by Stats. 1965, Ch. 1784.)*

CHAPTER 7. Basic Health Care [14000 - 14199.67] (*Chapter 7 added by Stats. 1965, 2nd Ex. Sess., Ch. 4.)*

ARTICLE 2.8. County Health Systems [14087.5 - 14087.95] (*Heading of Article 2.8 amended by Stats. 1988, Ch. 1348, Sec. 1.)*

14087.54. (a) Any county or counties may establish a special commission in order to meet the problems of the delivery of publicly assisted medical care in the county or counties and to demonstrate ways of promoting quality care and cost efficiency.

(b) (1) A county board of supervisors may, by ordinance, establish a commission to negotiate the exclusive contract specified in Section 14087.5 and to arrange for the provision of health care services provided pursuant to this chapter. The boards of supervisors of more than one county may also establish a single commission with the authority to negotiate an exclusive contract and to arrange for the provision of services in those counties. If a board of supervisors elects to enact this ordinance, all rights, powers, duties, privileges, and immunities vested in a county by this article shall be vested in the county commission. Any reference in this article to "county" shall mean a commission established pursuant to this section.

(2) A commission operating pursuant to this section may also enter into contracts for the provision of health care services to persons who are eligible to receive medical benefits under any publicly supported program, if the commission and participating providers acting pursuant to subcontracts with the commission agree to hold harmless the beneficiaries of the publicly supported programs if the contract between the sponsoring government agency and the commission does not ensure sufficient funding to cover program costs. The commission shall not use any payments or reserves from the Medi-Cal program for this purpose.

(3) In addition to the authority specified in paragraph (1), the board of supervisors may, by ordinance, authorize the commission established pursuant to this section to provide health care delivery systems for any or all of the following persons:

(A) Persons who are eligible to receive medical benefits under both Title 18 of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395 et seq.) and Title 19 of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396 et seq.).

(B) Persons who are eligible to receive medical benefits under Title 18 of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395).

(C) Other individuals or groups in the service area, including, but not limited to, public agencies, private businesses, and uninsured or indigent persons. The commission shall not use any payment or reserve from the Medi-Cal program for purposes of this subparagraph.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a commission established pursuant to this section from providing services pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) in counties other than the commission's county if the commission is approved by the Department of Managed Health Care to provide services in those counties. The commission shall not use any payment or reserve from the Medi-Cal program for purposes of this paragraph.

(5) For purposes of providing services to persons described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3), if the commission seeks a contract with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide Medicare services as a Medicare Advantage

program, the commission shall first obtain a license under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act (Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code).

(6) With respect to the provision of services for persons described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3), the commission shall conform to applicable state licensing and freedom of choice requirements as directed by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(7) Any material, provided to a person described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3) who is dually eligible to receive medical benefits under both the Medi-Cal program and the Medicare Program, regarding the enrollment or availability of enrollment in Medicare services established by the commission shall include notice of all of the following information in the following format:

(A) Medi-Cal eligibility will not be lost or otherwise affected if the person does not enroll in the plan for Medicare benefits.

(B) The person is not required to enroll in the Medicare plan to be eligible for Medicare benefits.

(C) The person may have other choices for Medicare coverage and for further assistance may contact the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at 1-800-MEDICARE or www.Medicare.gov.

(D) The notice shall be in plain language, prominently displayed, and translated into any language other than English that the commission is required to use in communicating with Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that if a county forms a commission pursuant to this section, the county shall, with respect to its medical facilities and programs occupy no greater or lesser status than any other health care provider in negotiating with the commission for contracts to provide health care services.

(d) The enabling ordinance shall specify the membership of the county commission, the qualifications for individual members, the manner of appointment, selection, or removal of commissioners, and how long they shall serve, and any other matters as a board of supervisors deems necessary or convenient for the conduct of the county commission's activities. A commission so established shall be considered an entity separate from the county or counties, shall be considered a public entity for purposes of Division 3.6 (commencing with Section 810) of Title 1 of the Government Code, and shall file the statement required by Section 53051 of the Government Code. The commission shall have in addition to the rights, powers, duties, privileges, and immunities previously conferred, the power to acquire, possess, and dispose of real or personal property, as may be necessary for the performance of its functions, to employ personnel and contract for services required to meet its obligations, to sue or be sued, and to enter into agreements under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code. Any obligations of a commission, statutory, contractual, or otherwise, shall be the obligations solely of the commission and shall not be the obligations of the county or of the state.

(e) Upon creation, a commission may borrow from the county or counties, and the county or counties may lend the commission funds, or issue revenue anticipation notes to obtain those funds necessary to commence operations.

(f) In the event a commission may no longer function for the purposes for which it was established, at the time that the commission's then existing obligations have been satisfied or the commission's assets have been exhausted, the board or boards of supervisors may by ordinance terminate the commission.

(g) Prior to the termination of a commission, the board or boards of supervisors shall notify the State Department of Health Care Services of its intent to terminate the commission. The department shall conduct an audit of the commission's records within 30 days of the notification to determine the liabilities and assets of the commission. The department shall report its findings to the board or boards within 10 days of completion of the audit. The board or boards shall prepare a plan to liquidate or otherwise dispose of the assets of the commission and to pay the liabilities of the commission to the extent of the commission's assets, and present the plan to the department within 30 days upon receipt of these findings.

(h) Upon termination of a commission by the board or boards, the county or counties shall manage any remaining assets of the commission until superseded by a department approved plan. Any liabilities of the commission shall not become obligations of the county or counties upon either the termination of the commission or the liquidation or disposition of the commission's remaining assets.

(i) Any assets of a commission shall be disposed of pursuant to provisions contained in the contract entered into between the state and the commission pursuant to this article.

(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede Section 14093.06 or 14094.3.

(Amended by Stats. 2007, Ch. 483, Sec. 51. Effective January 1, 2008.)