

**Senate Bill No. 686**

CHAPTER 899

An act to amend Section 674.6 of, to add Section 674.9 to, and to add Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11890) to Part 3 of Division 2 of, the Insurance Code, and to amend Section 14126.02 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to long-term care facilities.

[Approved by Governor October 12, 2003. Filed with Secretary of State October 12, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SEC. 4. Section 14126.02 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

14126.02. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to devise a Medi-Cal long-term care reimbursement methodology that more effectively ensures individual access to appropriate long-term care services, promotes quality resident care, advances decent wages and benefits for nursing home workers, supports provider compliance with all applicable state and federal requirements, and encourages administrative efficiency.

(b) (1) The department shall implement a facility-specific ratesetting system by August 1, 2004, subject to federal approval and the availability of federal or other funds, that reflects the costs and staffing levels associated with quality of care for residents in nursing facilities, as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code, which shall include hospital-based nursing facilities.

(2) The department shall examine several alternative rate methodology models for a new Medi-Cal reimbursement system for skilled nursing facilities to include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:

(A) Classification of residents based on the resource utilization group system or other appropriate acuity classification system.

(B) Facility specific case mix factors.

(C) Direct care labor based factors.

(D) Geographic or regional differences in the cost of operating facilities and providing resident care.

(E) Facility-specific cost based rate models used in other states.

(c) The department shall submit to the Legislature a status report on the implementation of this section on April 1, 2002, April 1, 2003, and April 1, 2004.

(d) The alternatives for a new system described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) shall be developed in consultation with recognized experts with experience in long-term care reimbursement, economists, the Attorney General, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other interested parties.

(e) In implementing this section, the department may contract as necessary, on a bid or nonbid basis, for professional consulting services from nationally recognized higher education and research institutions, or other qualified individuals and entities not associated with a skilled nursing facility, with demonstrated expertise in long-term care reimbursement systems. The ratesetting system specified in subdivision (b) shall be developed with all possible expedience. This subdivision establishes an accelerated process for issuing contracts pursuant to this section and contracts entered into pursuant to this subdivision shall be exempt from the requirements of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 10100) and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 10290) of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code.