RN1521832 **AP 22**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER CAVE**

(COAUTHOR: SENIOR SENATOR HOWK)

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 22: HEALTH CARE: EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION PACKETS.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, THE OPERATION OF A RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY IS REGULATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE A RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY TO MAINTAIN A PACKET WITH SPECIFIED EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR EACH RESIDENT OR PATIENT. THIS MEASURE WOULD FURTHER MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE PACKET TO BE GIVEN TO RESPONSIBLE MEDICAL PERSONNEL TRANSPORTING THE RESIDENT OR PATIENT TO A HOSPITAL AND THEN GIVEN TO THE HOSPITAL’S ADMITTING PHYSICIAN.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

AP 22: RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, BABY BOOMERS IN RECORD NUMBERS ARE REACHING THE AGE WHEN DEVELOPING DEMENTIA BECOMES MORE LIKELY; AND

WHEREAS, MANY DEMENTIA PATIENTS ARE PRESCRIBED MEDICATION TO ALLEVIATE COMBATIVENESS, AGITATION, PARANOIA, AND OTHER SYMPTOMS; AND

WHEREAS, WHEN A RESIDENT OF A RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY OR A PATIENT FROM A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY IS TRANSPORTED FROM THE FACILITY TO A HOSPITAL, THE FACILITY OFTEN DOES NOT PROVIDE THE HOSPITAL WITH EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION; AND

WHEREAS, EVEN IF THE FACILITY SENDS THE MEDICAL INFORMATION TO THE HOSPITAL, THE INFORMATION OFTEN DOES NOT REACH THE ADMITTING PHYSICIAN; AND

WHEREAS, IF AN ADMITTING PHYSICIAN DOES NOT RECEIVE A PATIENT’S MEDICAL INFORMATION, A NURSE OR PHYSICIAN MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO CARE FOR OR TREAT THE PATIENT AND MAY DISCONTINUE THE PATIENT’S MEDICATION; AND

WHEREAS, PROVIDING ADEQUATE CARE FOR A DEMENTIA PATIENT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT IF THE PATIENT’S MEDICATION HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED BECAUSE THE PATIENT MAY BECOME AGITATED, DISORIENTED, AND UNCOOPERATIVE; AND

WHEREAS, IF A DEMENTIA PATIENT IS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT THE PROPER MEDICATION, IT CAN BE VERY DETRIMENTAL BY THE VERY NEXT DAY BECAUSE THIS RESULTS IN NURSES NOT KNOWING HOW TO CARE FOR THEIR AGITATED PATIENT OR HOW TO CALM THEM; AND

WHEREAS, SOOTHING OR COMFORTING A DEMENTIA PATIENT TAKES VERY LITTLE TIME AND CAN MAKE A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE IN THE ABILITY TO CARE FOR THE PATIENT AND GET THE PATIENT’S COOPERATION, UNLESS THE PATIENT’S MEDICATION IS DISCONTINUED, WHICH MAKES SOOTHING OR COMFORTING A DEMENTIA PATIENT MORE DIFFICULT; AND

WHEREAS, WITHOUT ADEQUATE CARE, A PATIENT WITH DEMENTIA CAN FORGET HOW TO EAT WITHOUT SUPPORT AND CAN BECOME SO AGITATED THAT THE PATIENT WILL TRY TO GET OUT OF BED AND WILL NEED TO BE RESTRAINED, WHICH IS A TRAUMA THAT CAN EXACERBATE THE DEMENTIA; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2015 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT A RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A PACKET WITH THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION OF EACH RESIDENT OR PATIENT; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT EACH PACKET CONTAIN A COPY OF THE RESIDENT’S OR PATIENT’S CURRENT MEDICATIONS, IF ANY, DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER, IF ANY, RESPONSIBLE PARTY OR EMERGENCY CONTACT, INCLUDING THE RELEVANT CONTACT INFORMATION, PHYSICIAN REPORTS, INCLUDING THE CURRENT CARE PLAN FOR THE RESIDENT OR PATIENT, AND APPLICABLE AUTHORIZATION FORMS, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT WHEN A RESIDENT OR PATIENT IS TRANSPORTED TO A HOSPITAL, THE PACKET SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE RESPONSIBLE MEDICAL PERSONNEL TRANSPORTING THE RESIDENT OR PATIENT TO THE HOSPITAL AND THEN GIVEN TO THE HOSPITAL’S ADMITTING PHYSICIAN; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.