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LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AP 5: FALL RISK SCREENING: EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, MEDICARE PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR A MANDATORY FALLS RISK ASSESSMENT FOR ADULTS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE "WELCOME TO MEDICARE" EXAMINATION (INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OR IPPE). UNDER EXISTING LAW, MEDICARE ALSO PROVIDES FOR AN ANNUAL PREVENTIVE CARE VISIT WHICH REQUIRES A HEALTH RISK SCREENING.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A FALL RISK SCREENING EDUCATION PROGRAM AIMED AT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO WORK WITH THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO HAVE FALL RISK REDUCTION, FALL RISK SCREENINGS, AND ASSESSMENTS MADE PART OF THE REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS, AND ENCOURAGE HEALTH

CARE PROVIDERS TO CONDUCT A SIMPLE FALL RISK SCREENING ON ALL OLDER ADULT PATIENTS TO ASCERTAIN WHICH PATIENTS SHOULD BE REFERRED FOR MORE IN-DEPTH ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE THE CAUSES OF THEIR ELEVATED FALL RISK.

VOTE: MAJORITY.

AP 5: RELATING TO FALL RISK SCREENING EDUCATION

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) REPORTS THAT FALLS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF FATAL INJURIES FOR AMERICANS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER; AND

WHEREAS, ONE-IN-THREE COMMUNITY-DWELLING PERSONS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE FALLS EACH YEAR; AND

WHEREAS, IN 2011, ACCORDING TO THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, INPATIENT DISCHARGE DATA, THERE WERE 92,692 NONFATAL FALL-RELATED HOSPITALIZATIONS, 276,741 OLDER ADULTS TREATED AND RELEASED FROM EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS DUE TO A FALL, AND 1,910 FALL-RELATED DEATHS; AND

WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NONFATAL FALL INJURIES IN CALIFORNIA COST ABOUT \$2,400,000,000 EACH YEAR IN DIRECT MEDICAL COSTS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES' EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW OF FALL PREVENTION PROGRAMS CONCLUDED THAT, WHERE THOSE PROGRAMS WERE IMPLEMENTED, THE INCIDENCE OF FALLS WAS REDUCED BY A MINIMUM OF 11 PERCENT WITH A POTENTIAL REDUCTION OF 23 PERCENT; AND

WHEREAS, THE FIRST STEP IN FALLS PREVENTION IS TO IDENTIFY WHO IS AT RISK FOR A FALL BEFORE A FALL OCCURS; AND

WHEREAS, AN INITIAL FALL RISK SCREENING CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS THE "TIMED UP AND GO TEST" (TUG), WHICH TAKES LESS THAN TWO MINUTES, AND CAN BE CONDUCTED BY ANY TRAINED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL; AND

WHEREAS, THE RESULTS OF AN INITIAL FALL RISK SCREENING WILL INDICATE TO THE PHYSICIAN WHICH PATIENTS NEED TO BE REFERRED FOR A MORE IN-DEPTH MULTIFACTORIAL EVALUATION; AND

WHEREAS, GUIDELINES PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY RECOMMEND REDUCING FALLS THROUGH AN EVALUATION BY A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL; AND

WHEREAS, THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF FALLS BY ENSURING THAT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ARE EDUCATED REGARDING THE NEED TO IDENTIFY OLDER ADULTS AT RISK; AND

WHEREAS, THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA CAN REDUCE THE COST OF FALLS BY EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION; 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 2014 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A FALL RISK SCREENING EDUCATION PROGRAM AIMED AT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ADMINISTRATORS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORK WITH THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO HAVE FALL RISK REDUCTION, FALL RISK SCREENINGS, AND ASSESSMENTS MADE PART OF THE REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT A SIMPLE FALL RISK SCREENING ON ALL OLDER ADULT PATIENTS TO ASCERTAIN WHICH PATIENTS SHOULD BE REFERRED FOR MORE IN-DEPTH ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE THE CAUSES OF THEIR ELEVATED FALL RISK; 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.