

## Senate Bill No. 1068

### CHAPTER 1118

An act to add Sections 219 and 462.1 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to sudden infant death syndrome.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 1989. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 1989.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1068, Boatwright. Sudden infant death syndrome.

Existing law requires the State Department of Health Services to keep each county health officer advised of the most current knowledge relating to the nature and causes of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Existing law also requires the county health officer or his or her designated agent, upon being informed by the coroner of any case in which sudden infant death syndrome is the provisional cause of death, after consultation with the infant's physician of record, to immediately contact the person or persons who had custody and control of the infant and explain to those persons the nature and causes of sudden infant death syndrome.

This bill would require the department to contract with a person to provide regular and ongoing SIDS educational and training programs for specified persons who interact with parents and caregivers following a death from SIDS. This bill also would require the department to contract with a person to regularly produce, update, and distribute literature on SIDS for specific target populations of persons who interact with parents and caregivers following a death from SIDS. This bill would provide that the above requirements shall be subject to the annual Budget Act and shall be operative only to the extent funds are appropriated for those purposes.

This bill further would require the department to monitor, or contract with a person to monitor, whether the county health officer or his or her designated agent is performing the duties required by existing law.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death in children under the age of one, striking one out of every 500 infants, with a death toll in California now approaching 800 annually. The Legislature further finds and declares that the current level of state SIDS support and training services is insufficient to adequately train local health department staff, coroners, coroner's investigators, child care providers, peace officers and other emergency responders, and

hospital emergency room staff to assure SIDS awareness and sensitivity by those who must interact with parents and caregivers following a SIDS death.

SEC. 2. Section 219 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

219. (a) As used in this section, "SIDS" means sudden infant death syndrome.

(b) The state department shall contract with a person to provide regular and ongoing SIDS education and training programs for those who interact with parents and caregivers following a death from SIDS, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) County public health nurses.
- (2) Coroners and coroners' investigators.
- (3) Forensic pathologists.
- (4) Emergency room physicians and surgeons, nurses, and other staff.
- (5) Licensed day care providers.
- (6) SIDS parent groups.
- (7) Medical examiners.

(c) The state department shall contract with a person to produce, update, and distribute literature on SIDS for specific target populations of persons who interact with parents and caregivers following a death from SIDS, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Clergy.
- (2) Fire and police departments.
- (3) Emergency medical service staff.
- (4) Morticians.
- (5) Funeral directors.
- (6) SIDS parent groups.

(d) The requirements of this section shall be subject to the annual Budget Act and shall be operative only to the extent funds are appropriated for the purposes of this section.

SEC. 3. Section 462.1 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

462.1. The state department shall monitor, or contract with a person to monitor, whether the county health officer or his or her designated agent is performing the duties required by Section 462 and whether they are being performed within the time frames specified in Section 462.