

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Health Code - Retroactive Increase in Patient Rates for Certain Mental Health Services]

**Ordinance amending the Health Code to retroactively increase patient rates charged for mental health care.**

### **Existing Law**

Section 128 of the Health Code sets the reasonable amounts to be charged to persons for services furnished by the Department of Public Health.

### **Amendments to Current Law**

The proposed amendments to Section 128 increase certain rates retroactively to reflect the State's change in methodology for calculating reimbursements for certain mental health services.

### **Background Information**

Patient rates are being revised mid-fiscal year due to a change in the rate methodology used by the State to reimburse Short Doyle Medi-Cal mental health services. In the past, Short Doyle Medi-Cal mental health services were capped at a State Maximum Allowed (SMA) reimbursement. The Department of Health Care Services recently published a new rate methodology using county-specific interim reimbursement rates which are based on historical costs. Interim rates for San Francisco for outpatient mental health services are significantly higher than the prior year SMA. As a result, the patient rates for these services require amendment for fiscal years 2012-13, and 2013-2014, retroactive to July 1, 2012. Patient rates are the Usual and Customary Rates (UCR) used for Community Behavioral Health Services.