

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Administrative Code - Inmate Health Insurance Enrollment]

**Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to designate the Sheriff as the entity to assist county jail inmates with submitting an application for a health insurance affordability program consistent with federal requirements.**

### **Background Information**

Federal law generally does not authorize federal financial participation for Medi-Cal when a person is an inmate of a county jail. However, federal financial participation is available after an inmate is released from county jail. An inmate's ineligibility while in custody does not preclude processing an application for a health insurance program by or on behalf of the inmate.

### **Existing Law**

California Penal Code section 4011.11(a) authorizes the board of supervisors in each county, in consultation with the county sheriff, to designate an entity or entities to assist county jail inmates to apply for a health insurance affordability program. California Penal Code section 4011.11(f) defines health insurance affordability programs to include: (1) The State's Medi-Cal program under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act; (2) The State's children's health insurance program (CHIP) under Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act; (3) A program that makes coverage in a qualified health plan through the California Health Benefit Exchange established pursuant to Section 100500 of the California Government Code with advance payment of the premium tax credit established under Section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code available to qualified individuals; and (4) A program that makes available coverage in a qualified health plan through the California Health Benefit Exchange established pursuant to Section 100500 of the California Government Code with cost-sharing reductions established under Section 1402 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) and any subsequent amendments to that act.

### **Amendments to Current Law**

This ordinance would designate the Sheriff as the entity to assist county inmates to apply for a health insurance affordability program, as defined by California Penal Code section 4011.11(f).