

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 617

Introduced by Assembly Member McKinnor

February 13, 2025

An act to amend Section 9122 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to older adults.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 617, as introduced, McKinnor. Aging and Disability Resource Connection program: No Wrong Door System.

Existing law establishes an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program, administered by the California Department of Aging, to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs and to assist older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities in accessing LTSS programs at the local level. Existing law requires the California Department of Aging to administer the ADRC Infrastructure Grants Program for the purpose of implementing a No Wrong Door System, a system that enables consumers to access all LTSS through one agency, organization, coordinated network, or portal. Existing law states the intent of the Legislature that the No Wrong Door System serve seniors and individuals with disabilities by, among other things, providing consumers and their caregivers access to information and services. Existing law also establishes the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee, within the California Department of Aging, as the primary adviser in the implementation of the No Wrong Door System, and authorizes the committee to use the staff of the California Department of Aging to accomplish its purposes.

This bill would instead require the committee to use the staff of the California Department of Aging. The bill would also instead require the No Wrong Door System to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities, as specified, and would require, no later than December 31, 2027, the system to also establish a statewide respite referral registry to connect consumers enrolled in the Medi-Cal program with culturally competent, prescreened respite providers, and create and implement a consumer-directed employer program to assist in the provision of the statewide respite referral system.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 9122 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
2 is amended to read:

3 9122. (a) ~~It is the intent of the Legislature that the~~*The* No
4 Wrong Door System described in Section 9121 *shall* serve seniors
5 and individuals with disabilities by doing all of the following:

6 (1) Providing consumers and their caregivers access to
7 information and services, regardless of income or benefit level.

8 (2) Enabling an Aging and Disability Resource Connection
9 (ADRC) program to directly connect a client to appropriate local
10 programs.

11 (3) Providing each consumer in California with access to
12 individualized support and community resources to meet their
13 needs and to enable them to continue living in their own homes,
14 if desired.

15 (4) *No later than December 31, 2027, establishing a statewide*
16 *respite referral registry to connect consumers enrolled in the*
17 *Medi-Cal program with culturally competent, prescreened respite*
18 *providers. It is the intent of the Legislature for those implementing*
19 *the statewide respite referral registry to consider all of the*
20 *following:*

21 (A) *Accounting for consumer needs and preferences when*
22 *identifying potential respite providers.*

23 (B) *Providing for reasonable standards of accountability for*
24 *respite providers and prospective respite providers listed through*
25 *the registry.*

1 (C) *Ensuring voluntariness for respite providers and prospective*
2 *respite providers and consumers.*

3 (D) *Promoting job opportunities for respite providers and*
4 *prospective respite providers.*

5 (E) *Providing access to the registry for consumers who want*
6 *to query a referral independently.*

7 (F) *Increasing a consumer's choice of respite providers and*
8 *prospective respite providers via an established pool of available*
9 *respite providers and prospective respite providers on the registry.*

10 (5) *No later than December 31, 2027, creating and implementing*
11 *a consumer-directed employer program to assist in the provision*
12 *of the statewide respite referral system.*

13 (b) The Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory
14 Committee, which has been established within the California
15 Department of Aging, shall serve as the primary adviser to the
16 California Department of Aging, the Department of Rehabilitation,
17 and the State Department of Health Care Services in the ongoing
18 development and implementation of the No Wrong Door System
19 described in Section 9121. The advisory committee ~~may~~ *shall*
20 utilize staff of the California Department of Aging, as needed, to
21 accomplish its purposes. The California Department of Aging shall
22 expand the membership of the advisory committee as necessary
23 to include the perspective of all relevant stakeholders.

24 (c) The Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory
25 Committee shall, upon the request of the California Department
26 of Aging, or any task force appointed thereunder for the purpose
27 of developing and updating a master plan on aging, consult with
28 and offer input regarding the development and updating of that
29 master plan.

30 (d) The California Department of Aging, in consultation with
31 the advisory committee, shall do all of the following:

32 (1) Develop a plan for, and oversee the phased statewide
33 implementation of, the No Wrong Door System that utilizes the
34 ADRC program to assist older adults and people with disabilities
35 to obtain accurate information and timely referrals to appropriate
36 community services and supports. The plan shall include near- and
37 long-term tactics for statewide implementation.

38 (2) Serve as a statewide facilitator, coordinator, and policy
39 development resource on the ADRC program and No Wrong Door
40 System.

1 (3) Identify mainstream resources, benefits, and services that
2 can be accessed for the No Wrong Door System.

3 (4) Create partnerships among state agencies and departments,
4 local government agencies, the federal Administration for
5 Community Living, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
6 Services, and the federal Veterans Health Administration.

7 (5) Coordinate existing funding and applications for competitive
8 funding, while also exploring avenues for future funding, including,
9 but not limited to, Medicaid and federal Veterans Health
10 Administration funding.

11 (6) Make policy and procedural recommendations to the
12 Legislature and other governmental entities.

13 (7) Consider the expansion of the “no wrong door” approach
14 to programs and policies outside of the California Health and
15 Human Services Agency.

16 (8) (A) Report to the Governor and the Legislature on the No
17 Wrong Door System and the implementation of the system.

18 (B) Reports to be submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall
19 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
20 Code.

21 (e) The implementation of this section is contingent on an
22 appropriation in the annual Budget Act, or another act, for that
23 express purpose.