

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 29, 2021

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2021

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2021

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2021

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2021–22 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 619**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Calderon  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Mayes, Nazarian, Luz Rivas, and  
Wood)**

February 12, 2021

---

---

An act to add Section 8593.25 to the Government Code, and to add Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 107250) to Part 2 of Division 104 of, and to repeal the heading of Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Part 2 of Division 104 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 619, as amended, Calderon. ~~Lung health.~~ *Air quality.*

~~Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to award and administer, on a competitive basis, grants for projects directed at the prevention of tobacco-related diseases. Existing law requires the department to conduct statewide surveillance of tobacco-related behaviors, knowledge, and attitudes, evaluate local and state tobacco control programs, evaluate the effectiveness of specified tobacco use prevention education directed at schools, and implement a tobacco use prevention media campaign, as specified.~~

Existing law requires the ~~department~~ *State Department of Public Health* to submit to the State Air Resources Board recommendations

for ambient air quality standards reflecting the relationship between the intensity and composition of air pollution and the health, illness, irritation to the senses, and the death of human beings.

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, among other things, creates the Office of Emergency Services, which is responsible for the state's emergency and disaster response services, as specified. Existing law requires the Governor to coordinate the State Emergency Plan and those programs necessary for the mitigation of the effects of an emergency. Existing law requires the governing body of each political subdivision of the state to carry out the provisions of the State Emergency Plan. Existing law requires a county, upon the next update to its emergency plan, to integrate access and functional needs into its emergency plan, among other requirements.

This bill would require the department to develop a plan, addressing specified issues, with recommendations and guidelines for counties to use in the case of a significant air quality event caused by wildfires or other sources. The bill would require the department to consult with specified stakeholders in developing the plan.

This bill would require a county, in advance of its next emergency plan update, to create a task force to use the air quality plan developed by the department and to develop a county-specific plan that addresses all of the recommendations and guidelines of the department's air quality plan, as specified. By requiring a county to create an air quality emergency planning task force, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8593.25 is added to the Government
- 2 Code, immediately following Section 8593.2, to read:

1 8593.25. (a) (1) A county, including a city and county, shall,  
2 in advance of the next update to its emergency plan, create a task  
3 force to use the plan developed pursuant to subdivision (a) of  
4 Section 107250 of the Health and Safety Code, and to develop a  
5 county-specific plan that addresses all of the recommendations  
6 and guidelines of the plan developed pursuant to subdivision (a)  
7 of Section 107250 of the Health and Safety Code.

8 (2) A county, including a city and county, shall also assign a  
9 role, department, or agency to serve as a lead with regard to each  
10 recommendation and guideline in the event of significantly poor  
11 air quality caused by wildfires or other sources. *If a county,*  
12 *including a city and county, has an existing hierarchy to assign*  
13 *responsibilities in the event of significantly poor air quality caused*  
14 *by wildfires or other sources, the county may incorporate its*  
15 *existing process into its county-specific plan to fulfill this*  
16 *requirement.*

17 (b) A county, including a city and county, shall, in advance of  
18 the next update to its emergency plan, establish criteria, locations,  
19 and measurements of effectiveness for public respite facilities  
20 during poor air quality and other weather-related events.

21 (c) A county-specific plan developed pursuant to subdivision  
22 (a) shall incorporate a plan to identify personnel to rapidly deploy  
23 aid and expertise to disaster areas, and a plan for public outreach  
24 to promptly and effectively inform the public about the health  
25 threat and what the public should do in response.

26 (d) A county-specific plan developed pursuant to subdivision  
27 (a) shall incorporate a process to provide emergency provisions  
28 of ~~protective air filtration masks,~~ *respiratory protection,* air  
29 purifiers, medications, and oxygen for people with respiratory and  
30 pulmonary diseases, and people suffering symptoms of respiratory  
31 and pulmonary diseases. *If a county, including a city and county,*  
32 *has an existing process to acquire and distribute emergency*  
33 *provisions, the county may incorporate its existing process into*  
34 *its county-specific plan to fulfill this requirement.*

35 (e) Two or more counties may establish a multicounty agreement  
36 to develop and implement a regional multicounty plan in lieu of  
37 each individual county implementing its own plan. A multicounty  
38 plan shall be approved by each of the counties' boards of  
39 supervisors.

1 SEC. 2. The heading of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 104 of  
2 the Health and Safety Code is repealed.

3 SEC. 3. Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 107250) is added  
4 to Part 2 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

5

6

CHAPTER 1. AIR QUALITY HEALTH PLANNING

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

107250. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall develop a plan with recommendations and guidelines for counties to use in the case of a significant air quality event caused by wildfires or other sources. The plan shall address all of the following:

(1) Establishing policies and procedures that address ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment and devices, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Whether to make ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment and devices available to county residents.

(B) Whether to have stockpiles of ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment and devices available for distribution.

(C) Where to obtain ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment and devices if stockpiling.

(D) How to distribute ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment and devices if stockpiling.

(E) How to educate the public on when to use ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment and devices.

(F) Educating the public on keeping ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment in their homes, offices, and cars.

(2) Making available ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment and devices to residents that are sensitive receptors and are at risk of serious illness or complications resulting from inhaling highly polluted air from a significant air quality event caused by wildfires or other sources.

(3) Providing information to residents on what they should do if the air quality index hits a significant threshold.

(4) Providing information to residents regarding the health impacts of inhaling air pollution during a significant air quality event caused by wildfires or other sources.

1 (5) Developing prevention strategies to assist residents in  
2 avoiding inhalation of air pollutants.

3 (6) Disseminating the information in this subdivision to the  
4 public.

5 (b) The recommendations in the plan developed pursuant to  
6 subdivision (a) shall include guidance about how a county,  
7 including a city and county, informs its residents about all of the  
8 following:

9 (1) Unhealthy air quality.

10 (2) The Air Quality Index.

11 (3) The effect of air pollution on an individual's health,  
12 including the symptoms someone may experience and where to  
13 go for medical assistance.

14 (4) Where an individual can obtain protective ~~air filtration masks~~  
15 *respiratory protection* and other protective equipment.

16 (5) How and when to use ~~air filtration masks~~ *respiratory*  
17 *protection* and other protective equipment.

18 (6) How and when an individual needing oxygen or respiratory  
19 medications can obtain oxygen or respiratory medications.

20 (7) How to protect children, seniors, the disabled, the  
21 homebound, the homeless, those working outdoors, tourists,  
22 visitors, non-English speakers, and any others who may have  
23 difficulty obtaining or using masks or other protective equipment  
24 without assistance.

25 (8) Any other information that is useful for an individual to  
26 protect their health, and the health of their loved ones, in the case  
27 of significantly poor air quality caused by wildfires or other  
28 sources.

29 (c) The plan developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall also  
30 include best practices and recommended protocols for reaching  
31 out to inform the general public about the recommendations and  
32 guidelines and shall include best practices and recommended  
33 protocols for reaching out specifically to vulnerable populations,  
34 such as the homeless, elderly, disabled, and homebound.

35 (d) The department shall develop the plan, pursuant to  
36 subdivision (a), in consultation with key stakeholders, including,  
37 but not limited to, representatives of all of the following:

38 (1) Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

39 (2) State Air Resources Board.

40 (3) Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

- 1 (4) California Department of Aging.
- 2 (5) State Department of Developmental Services.
- 3 (6) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.
- 4 (7) Medical professionals focused on respiratory health,
- 5 pulmonology, pediatrics, and emergency medicine.
- 6 (8) Small and large air pollution districts.
- 7 (9) Counties.
- 8 (10) Cities.
- 9 (11) Hospitals.
- 10 (12) Business organizations.
- 11 (13) Advocacy organizations involved in respiratory health.
- 12 (14) Advocacy organizations working on behalf of issues for
- 13 individuals with disabilities.
- 14 (15) Advocacy organizations working on behalf of issues for
- 15 the homeless.
- 16 (16) Advocacy organizations working on behalf of issues for
- 17 seniors.
- 18 *(e) The plan developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall*
- 19 *supplement any resources developed by the department, on or*
- 20 *before the effective date of this section, for counties to use in the*
- 21 *case of a significant air quality event caused by wildfires or other*
- 22 *sources.*
- 23 *(f) For purposes of this chapter, “a significant air quality event”*
- 24 *is defined as the period of time in which the duration of exposure*
- 25 *and the level of particulate matter, or other indicators of air*
- 26 *quality, are likely to result in negative health impacts.*
- 27 SEC. 4. The heading of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of Division 104 of
- 28 the Health and Safety Code is repealed.
- 29 SEC. 5. The heading of Chapter 3 of Part 2 of Division 104 of
- 30 the Health and Safety Code is repealed.
- 31 SEC. 6. The heading of Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 104 of
- 32 the Health and Safety Code is repealed.
- 33 SEC. 7. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
- 34 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
- 35 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
- 36 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 37 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.