

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 5, 2021  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 25, 2021

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 782**

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**Introduced by Senator Glazer**  
*(Coauthors: Senators Melendez and Rubio)*

February 19, 2021

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An act to add Section 5346.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 782, as amended, Glazer. Assisted outpatient treatment programs. The Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project Act of 2002, known as Laura's Law, commencing January 1, 2022, requires each county to offer specified mental health programs, unless a county or group of counties opts out by a resolution passed by the governing body stating the reasons for opting out and any facts or circumstances relied on in making that decision. Existing law authorizes participating counties to pay for the services provided from moneys distributed to the counties from various continuously appropriated funds, including the Mental Health Services Fund, when included in a county plan, as specified. Existing law authorizes a court to order a person who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to those provisions to obtain assisted outpatient treatment if the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that the facts stated in the petition are true and establish that specified criteria are met, including that the person has a history of lack of compliance with treatment for their mental illness, and that there has been a clinical determination that the person is unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision. Existing law authorizes the petition to be filed by the county behavioral health director, or the

director’s designee, in the superior court in the county in which the person who is the subject of the petition is present or reasonably believed to be present, in accordance with prescribed procedures.

This bill would additionally authorize the filing of a petition to obtain assisted outpatient treatment under the existing petition procedures, for a conservatee or former conservatee, as specified, who would benefit from assisted outpatient treatment to reduce the risk of deteriorating mental health while living independently.

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 5346.5 is added to the Welfare and  
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 5346.5. (a) In a county or group of counties where services  
4 ~~are available~~ *available*, as provided in Section 5348, and in  
5 accordance with the requirements of Section 5346, a court may  
6 order a person who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to  
7 this section to obtain assisted outpatient treatment if the court finds,  
8 by clear and convincing evidence, that the facts stated in the  
9 verified petition filed in accordance with this section are true and  
10 establish that at least one of the criteria set forth in subdivision (b)  
11 are satisfied.

12 (b) This section applies to a person who is either of the  
13 following:

14 (1) A conservatee under this part who is the subject of a pending  
15 petition to terminate a conservatorship who, if the petition is  
16 granted, would benefit from assisted outpatient treatment to reduce  
17 the risk of deteriorating mental health while living independently.

18 (2) A former conservatee under this part who was the subject  
19 of a petition to terminate conservatorship that was granted within  
20 the preceding 60 days, who would benefit from assisted outpatient  
21 treatment to reduce the risk of deteriorating mental health while  
22 continuing to live independently.