

Senate Bill No. 702

CHAPTER 538

An act to add Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 104324) to Part 1 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to environmental health.

[Approved by Governor October 4, 2001. Filed with Secretary of State October 5, 2001.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 702, Escutia. Chronic disease: environmental determinants.

Existing law makes various provisions for the prevention of disease, including chronic diseases, and the promotion of health, and imposes various requirements on the State Department of Health Services in this regard.

This bill would declare legislative intent to establish an Environmental Health Surveillance System, in accordance with the recommendations of the working group created pursuant to the bill and described below.

This bill would provide that the purpose of the EHSS shall be to establish an ongoing surveillance of environmental exposures and the diseases afflicting Californians. The bill would require the division and the office, in cooperation with the Regents of the University of California, to create a working group of technical experts with specified duties, including the development of possible approaches to establishing the EHSS, and would express legislative intent that legislation be enacted adopting one of these approaches.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) In its fight against chronic diseases, including birth defects, that are related to the environment, California must give communities and public health professionals solid, reliable information, which is the most basic tool to undertake the prevention of these diseases.

(b) Data generated by tracking and monitoring chronic diseases are critical to all of the following:

(1) Knowing where and how to put in place the most effective strategies to prevent diseases.

(2) Assessing the contribution of diseases to disabilities and premature mortality.



- (3) Measuring the effectiveness of prevention strategies.
- (4) Generating hypotheses that may lead to new scientific knowledge about the causes of, and most effective ways to fight, chronic diseases.
- (c) To examine the relationships between chronic diseases and the environment, the state should do all of the following:
 - (1) Survey a cross section of the overall population in California, including chronically ill patients, and their environmental exposures.
 - (2) Conduct biomonitoring to measure pollutant levels in blood and urine samples for a cross section of the population.
 - (3) Link data created by the survey to other health and environmental data bases, such as birth certificates, neonatal blood tests, hospital admissions, emergency room visits, and mortality.
 - (4) Require state government agencies and universities to examine whether, and the extent to which, past environmental exposures might increase the risk of several chronic diseases, including birth defects, heart disease, cancer, asthma and other respiratory conditions, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other neurological degenerative diseases.
- (d) The initial investment to establish this type of a data collection and analysis infrastructure to develop preventive strategies would constitute a small fraction of the annual costs of controlling chronic diseases in California.
- (e) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to form a public-private partnership to create an environmental health and chronic disease surveillance system to do all of the following:
 - (1) Provide a data base, with linkages to the survey, biomonitoring, and disease type, to assess the impact of environmental contaminants on the human body and, to the extent possible, regional data to assess geographic variability.
 - (2) Track and evaluate a variety of chronic diseases in relation to environmental exposures, including state and local data on actual incidences of chronic disease.
 - (3) Make data available to the public in an accessible and useful format.
 - (4) Ultimately provide information to the relevant board, department, or office within the California Environmental Protection Agency and to the relevant branch or division within the State Department of Health Services for the development of appropriate preventive strategies.

SEC. 2. Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 104324) is added to Part 1 of Division 103 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:



CHAPTER 8. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

104324. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish an Environmental Health Surveillance System (EHSS) in accordance with this chapter. The purpose of the EHSS shall be to establish ongoing surveillance of the environmental exposures and diseases affecting Californians, with a focus on prevalence and determinants of chronic diseases. The Regents of the University of California are requested to cooperate with the division and the office in establishing the EHSS.

(b) The objectives of the EHSS are as follows:

(1) To track and evaluate a variety of chronic diseases in relation to environmental exposures.

(2) To allow both government and university investigators and public health officials to assess the impact of environmental contaminants on the human body.

(3) To provide information to the relevant board, department, or office within the California Environmental Protection Agency and to the relevant branch or division within the State Department of Health Services for the development of appropriate preventive strategies.

104324.2. (a) On or before July 1, 2002, the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control in the State Department of Health Services, in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, shall create a working group of technical experts, including experts who have knowledge of the sensitivity and exposure of children, women of child-bearing age, seniors, and disparately affected populations to environmental hazards, to do all of the following:

(1) Develop possible approaches to establishing the EHSS, including an estimated cost for each approach.

(2) Prepare and submit a report to the State Department of Health Services and, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and appropriate legislative committees, by July 1, 2003, on the possible approaches to establishing the EHSS, including an estimated cost of each approach, and the recommended approach to establishing an EHSS for California.

(3) Develop the health and environmental measurements needed to do both of the following:

(A) Obtain an ongoing picture of the health of Californians.

(B) Establish a data base that may facilitate the examination of the relationship between chronic diseases, including birth defects, and the environment.



(b) The Regents of the University of California are requested to cooperate with the division and the office in creating the work group described in this section.

104324.3. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require the adoption and implementation, by specified dates, of one of the approaches recommended by the working group pursuant to Section 104324.2.

104324.5. This chapter shall only apply to the University of California to the extent that the Regents of the University of California make it applicable by appropriate resolution.



Senate Bill No. 189

CHAPTER 407

An act to add Section 104324.25 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to environmental health.

[Approved by Governor September 16, 2003. Filed with Secretary of State September 17, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 189, Escutia. Environmental health tracking system: chronic disease.

Existing law states the intent of the Legislature to establish the Environmental Health Surveillance System (EHSS) for the purpose of establishing ongoing surveillance of the environmental exposures and diseases affecting Californians, with a focus on prevalence and determinants of chronic diseases. Existing law requires the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control within the State Department of Health Services, in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, to require, on or before July 1, 2002, a working group of technical experts, as specified, to develop possible approaches to establishing the EHSS.

This bill would enact the California Health Tracking Act of 2003, and would require the State Department of Health Services, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of California to jointly develop and sign a memorandum of understanding to assess the feasibility of integrating existing environmental hazard, exposure, and health outcome data, and describing how the data correspond to specified recommendations of the working group, on or before July 1, 2004. This bill would also require the California Environmental Health Tracking Program to obtain specified information. The bill would authorize the California Environmental Health Tracking Program to collect any relevant information from state agencies, boards, departments, and offices.

This bill would make legislative findings that activities requested under the bill are within the scope of existing federal contracts and funding. It would provide that specified provisions of the bill relating to these activities shall be implemented only to the extent that federal funds remain available for the activities specified in those provisions, and that no General Fund moneys shall be used to implement these provisions.



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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Health Tracking Act of 2003.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Approximately 7 out of every 10 deaths in the United States are attributable to chronic diseases. The national cost of chronic diseases is \$325 billion in annual health care and lost productivity costs, and this problem needs to be appropriately addressed.

(b) California follows this trend with an estimated \$75 billion to \$90 billion spent annually for health care to treat people with these chronic diseases.

(c) The rates of many chronic diseases, including asthma, some birth defects, and cancers, are on the rise.

(d) We can and must do a better job of identifying the causes, and preventing the burden, of these diseases.

(e) There is growing scientific evidence that environmental factors are strongly linked to the incidence of certain chronic diseases, and are even more strongly linked to these diseases than is genetic predisposition.

(f) A gap in critical knowledge exists in understanding the prevalence and incidence of chronic diseases and the environmental factors that may relate to them.

(g) State- and community-level incidence data on chronic diseases are needed to identify trends and patterns, and to improve disease prevention efforts.

(h) The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided this state with funds for planning, evaluating, training, tracking, and conducting a pilot demonstration to assist with chronic disease and environmental exposure surveillance and prevention efforts.

(i) In the 2002 fiscal year, Congress provided the CDC with funding of \$17.5 million to begin developing a nationwide environmental public health tracking network, and to develop capacity for this network in environmental health sections within state and local health departments.

(j) California received a three-year, \$2.2 million grant for the University of California, and a separate three-year \$2.4 million grant for the State Department of Health Services, to help establish an environmental health tracking network.

(k) A statewide health tracking network, that integrates data systems and collaborative programs and partnerships involving environmental and public health professionals and agencies will help target resources more efficiently to those areas most in need.



(l) In March 2001, the CDC released the first National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. This first edition of the report presents 27 levels of environmental chemicals measured in the United States population, including metals such as lead, mercury, and uranium, cotinine, which is a marker of tobacco smoke exposure, and organophosphate pesticide metabolites, as well as phthalate metabolites.

(m) An increasing amount of research indicates that many of the kinds of chemicals measured by the CDC can have an adverse impact on human health.

(n) In January 2003, the CDC National Center for Environmental Health issued the second National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. The report presents biomonitoring exposure data for 116 chemicals measured in the United States population, including 89 additional environmental chemicals, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and various pesticides and herbicides, that were not included in the first report.

(o) Senate Bill 702 (Chapter 538 of the Statutes of 2001) makes California the first state in the nation to begin planning a statewide environmental health surveillance system for chronic diseases and environmental exposures, in order to monitor trends in health conditions, such as asthma, learning disabilities, and neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease, all of which have suspected links to environmental exposures.

(p) This year the Senate Bill 702 expert working group will make recommendations on how to develop an environmental health surveillance system, the associated costs, and the health and environmental measurements that would be used in the system.

(q) Currently, the state lacks critical knowledge about the possible links between chronic diseases and chemicals that are present in air, water, soil, dust, food, or other environmental media. Without information obtained by tracking health and its links to environmental factors, California will continue to fight chronic disease with costly treatment, rather than with cost-effective prevention.

SEC. 3. Section 104324.25 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

104324.25. (a) On or before July 1, 2004, the State Department of Health Services, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of California shall jointly develop and sign a memorandum of understanding to assess the feasibility of both of the following:

(1) Integrating existing environmental hazard, exposure, and health outcome data.



(2) Describing how these data correspond to recommendations in the final report of the expert working group established under this chapter regarding the establishment of an environmental health tracking system.

(b) The California Environmental Health Tracking Program in the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control of the department shall obtain all the following information:

(1) A description of the relevant laws, regulations, and policies that authorize or mandate environmental hazard and disease surveillance.

(2) A comprehensive description of California's public health surveillance and environmental hazard, exposure, and health outcome monitoring information systems, including, but not limited to, the purpose, scope, contents, and capabilities of each system.

(3) A description of the current sources of financial support for public health surveillance, environmental hazard, exposure, and health outcome monitoring information systems, and related funds.

(c) The California Environmental Health Tracking Program may collect any relevant information, including information related to other priority data systems identified by the working group established under this chapter, from any state agency, board, department, or office.

(d) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that the activities requested under subdivisions (a) and (b) are within the scope of existing contracts and funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the State Department of Health Services and the University of California, and are provided to support the planning and development of an environmental health tracking system in California.

(2) Subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be implemented only to the extent that federal funds remain available for the activities specified in those subdivisions. No General Fund moneys shall be used to implement subdivisions (a) and (b).



AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 12, 2004

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2004

SENATE BILL

No. 1446

Introduced by Senator Escutia
(Coauthors: Senators Kuehl and Vasconcellos)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bermudez and Jackson)

February 19, 2004

An act to add Section 104324.27 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to environmental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1446, as amended, Escutia. Environmental health data tracking.

Existing law establishes the Environmental Health Surveillance System through an interagency agreement between the State Department of Health Services, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of California if authorized by the regents, for the purpose of, among other things, tracking and evaluating a variety of chronic diseases in relation to environmental exposures.

This bill would require ~~the establishment~~, pursuant to ~~the that interagency agreement, the establishment~~ of the Interagency Office of Environmental Health Tracking within the *department's* Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control ~~within the State Department of Health Services~~ for the purpose of implementing the ~~health tracking program, and would set forth the duties of the office~~ *California Health Tracking Program. The bill would require the department and the Cal/EPA to each provide one 50% time research scientist as staff for the new office. The bill would prescribe the office's*

objectives over a 3-year period and would require the office to complete certain duties for the 2004–05 fiscal year.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Chronic diseases and injuries account for 75 percent of all
- 4 deaths in California.
- 5 (b) The medical and income-loss costs of chronic diseases for
- 6 the state in 2000 were estimated to be \$107 billion.
- 7 (c) Researchers have strong scientific evidence showing that
- 8 many of these diseases, including, but not limited to, respiratory
- 9 illness, adverse pregnancy outcomes, cancer, and developmental
- 10 disabilities, are associated with environmental exposures.
- 11 (d) If preventable environmental hazards account for even 1
- 12 percent of the cost of all chronic diseases in California, action to
- 13 identify and reduce these environmental exposures would save the
- 14 state hundreds of millions of dollars per year.
- 15 (e) The State of California has an inadequate ongoing
- 16 surveillance system to describe trends in environmental hazards or
- 17 exposures and environmentally related diseases, and inadequate
- 18 resources to carry out special studies to explain the trends or to
- 19 explore the policy implications of its findings.
- 20 (f) Environmental surveillance systems are necessary to
- 21 monitor the frequency and geographic distribution of these
- 22 illnesses and exposures and to protect public health.
- 23 (g) Ongoing surveillance of environmentally related diseases
- 24 and priority environmental hazards should be the function and
- 25 responsibility of the State of California.
- 26 (h) There are multiple agencies in California that collect and
- 27 manage health and environmental data, and those databases, which
- 28 could be used for tracking, need to be updated and made uniform.
- 29 However, there is a lack of systematic analysis of the data.
- 30 (i) There needs to be a coordinating body that brings these
- 31 agencies together and promotes collaboration and sets the
- 32 priorities for updating these databases and systems. The cost to



1 integrate, coordinate, and analyze the data is only a fraction of the
2 cost that is spent on collecting the data.

3 (j) An interagency office of environmental health tracking
4 should be established and staffed jointly by the State Department
5 of Health Services and the California Environmental Protection
6 Agency.

7 SEC. 2. Section 104324.27 is added to the Health and Safety
8 Code, immediately following Section 104324.25, to read:

9 104324.27. (a) Pursuant to the memorandum of
10 understanding set forth in Section 104324.25, the department and
11 the California Environmental Protection Agency shall establish
12 the Interagency Office of Environmental Health Tracking within
13 the department's Division of Environmental and Occupational
14 Disease Control for the purpose of implementing the California
15 Health Tracking Program.

16 (b) As used in this chapter "office of health tracking" means
17 the Interagency Office of Environmental Health Tracking
18 established in subdivision (a).

19 (c) The department and the California Environmental
20 Protection Agency shall both provide staff for the office of health
21 tracking *with one 50 percent time research scientist in the*
22 *Environmental Health Investigations Branch of the department,*
23 *and one 50 percent time research scientist in the Office of*
24 *Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The research scientists*
25 *shall, among other things, assist local communities by providing*
26 *technical assistance to obtain and interpret needed environmental*
27 *health data.*

28 (d) ~~The objectives of the office of health tracking shall be all of~~
29 ~~the following~~ *be to accomplish the following over a three-year*
30 *period:*

31 (1) Coordinate the multiple tracking data collection activities
32 across various state agencies and work to ~~update and integrate~~
33 ~~priority databases~~ *promote access to priority databases in order to*
34 *integrate data* into the California Environmental Health Tracking
35 System which is currently being developed with a planning grant
36 from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

37 (2) Oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the
38 final report of the working group established pursuant to this
39 chapter.



- 1 (3) Facilitate the dissemination of surveillance data to the
2 public and researchers and provide technical assistance on how to
3 interpret the data.
- 4 (4) Develop data sharing agreements, and develop procedures
5 to protect individual privacy.
- 6 (5) Develop a strategic plan that would include a mission
7 statement, critical issues, core priorities for research and
8 surveillance, identification of internal and external stakeholders,
9 and a work plan describing future program development.
- 10 (6) Collate and analyze data, including, but not limited to, all
11 of the following:
- 12 (A) Identifying trends and geographic patterns of disease and
13 environmental hazards or exposures.
- 14 (B) Analyzing hazards, exposures, and diseases with relation to
15 socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity.
- 16 (C) Provide baseline data and present descriptive information
17 relevant to policy formation that are consistent with existing goals
18 of the program.
- 19 (7) Develop a strategic plan, in consultation with the Office of
20 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, for obtaining missing
21 information on chemicals as necessary for analyzing significant
22 environmental exposures and potentially damaging health and
23 environmental effects, including reports from the National
24 Academy of Sciences, the European Union's directives on
25 chemicals, and other relevant studies.
- 26 (8) Produce a report to the Legislature once every two years on
27 the status of surveillance activities and related research programs.
- 28 (e) The office of health tracking shall use the program's
29 existing advisory bodies composed of members selected from
30 impacted communities, local government, environmental
31 advocacy groups, the regulated community, labor, and other
32 nongovernmental organizations to review and comment on its
33 findings, to provide input on future directions, to comment on the
34 biennial report, and to ensure accountability to communities and
35 the public.
- 36 *SEC. 3. For the 2004–05 fiscal year, the office of health*
37 *tracking shall do all of the following:*
- 38 *(a) Develop and sign cooperative agreements for data sharing*
39 *between the office of health tracking, the Division of Chronic*
40 *Disease and Injury Control in the department, and the boards,*



1 departments, and offices of the California Environmental
2 Protection Agency. These agreements shall be modeled after the
3 recent Memorandum of Understanding signed by the United States
4 Environmental Protection Agency and the United States
5 Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate
6 collection of health and environmental data.

7 (b) Develop a strategic plan that shall include (1) a mission
8 statement, (2) identification of both critical issues and core
9 priorities for research and surveillance and internal and external
10 stakeholders, and (3) a work plan describing future program
11 development.

12 (c) Develop extramural proposals to seek federal and
13 foundation funds to establish pilot tracking projects, fund
14 additional staff positions, and develop solid cost estimates and
15 proposals for a tracking function.



AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 20, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 14, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 849

Introduced by Senator Escutia

(~~Coauthor: Senator Kuehl~~ Coauthors: *Senators Alquist and Kuehl*)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan, Koretz, Levine, and Pavley)

February 22, 2005

An act to add Section 104324.27 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to environmental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 849, as amended, Escutia. Environmental health data tracking.

Existing law establishes the Environmental Health Surveillance System through an interagency agreement between the State Department of Health Services, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), and the University of California if authorized by the regents, for the purpose of, among other things, tracking and evaluating a variety of chronic diseases in relation to environmental exposures.

This bill would require, pursuant to that interagency agreement, the establishment of the Interagency Office of Environmental Health Tracking within the department's Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control for the purpose of implementing the California Health Tracking Program. The bill would require the department and the Cal/EPA to each provide one 50% time research scientist as staff for the new office. The bill would state the Legislature's intent to provide funding to the department and the Cal/EPA for those research scientist positions in the 2005-06 Budget

Act. The bill would prescribe the office's objectives over a 3-year period and would require the office to complete certain duties during the first year after it is established. The bill would require any additional funding for the office, beyond funding that the Legislature may appropriate for the research scientists, to come from federal or private sources. The bill would require that its provisions be implemented only if the department and the Cal/EPA receive funding in the 2005-06 Budget Act for the two 50% time research scientist positions, and if the Department of Finance makes a determination that sufficient federal or private moneys have been made available to the state to fully implement the bill.

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. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
- 3 (a) Chronic diseases and injuries account for 75 percent of all
4 deaths in California.
- 5 (b) The medical and income-loss costs of chronic diseases for
6 the state in 2000 were estimated to be \$107 billion.
- 7 (c) Researchers have strong scientific *or suggestive* evidence
8 showing that many of these diseases, including, but not limited
9 to, respiratory illness, adverse pregnancy outcomes, cancer, and
10 developmental disabilities, are associated with environmental
11 exposures.
- 12 (d) If preventable environmental hazards account for even 1
13 percent of the cost of all chronic diseases in California, action to
14 identify and reduce these environmental exposures would save
15 the state hundreds of millions of dollars per year.
- 16 (e) The State of California has an inadequate ongoing
17 surveillance system to describe trends in environmental hazards
18 or exposures and environmentally related diseases, and
19 inadequate resources to carry out special studies to explain the
20 trends or to explore the policy implications of its findings.
- 21 (f) Environmental surveillance systems are necessary to
22 monitor the frequency and geographic distribution of these
23 illnesses and exposures and to protect public health.

1 (g) Ongoing surveillance of environmentally related diseases
2 and priority environmental hazards should be the function and
3 responsibility of the State of California.

4 (h) There are multiple agencies in California that collect and
5 manage health and environmental data, and those databases,
6 which could be used for tracking, need to be updated and made
7 uniform. However, there is a lack of systematic analysis of the
8 data.

9 (i) There needs to be a coordinating body that brings these
10 agencies together and promotes collaboration and sets the
11 priorities for updating these databases and systems. The cost to
12 integrate, coordinate, and analyze the data is only a fraction of
13 the cost of collecting the data.

14 (j) An interagency office of environmental health tracking
15 should be established and staffed jointly by the State Department
16 of Health Services and the California Environmental Protection
17 Agency.

18 SEC. 2. Section 104324.27 is added to the Health and Safety
19 Code, immediately following Section 104324.25, to read:

20 104324.27. (a) Pursuant to the memorandum of
21 understanding set forth in Section 104324.25, the department and
22 the California Environmental Protection Agency shall establish
23 the Interagency Office of Environmental Health Tracking within
24 the department's Division of Environmental and Occupational
25 Disease Control for the purpose of implementing the California
26 Health Tracking Program.

27 (b) As used in this chapter "office of health tracking" means
28 the Interagency Office of Environmental Health Tracking
29 established in subdivision (a).

30 (c) The department and the California Environmental
31 Protection Agency shall both provide staff for the office of health
32 tracking with one 50 percent time research scientist in the
33 Environmental Health Investigations Branch of the department,
34 and one 50 percent time research scientist in the Office of
35 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The research
36 scientists shall, among other things, assist local communities by
37 providing technical assistance to obtain and interpret needed
38 environmental health data.

39 (d) The objectives of the office of health tracking shall be to
40 accomplish the following over a three-year period:

- 1 (1) Coordinate the multiple tracking data collection activities
2 across various state agencies and work to promote access to
3 priority databases ~~in order to integrate data into the California~~
4 ~~Environmental Health Tracking System that is currently being~~
5 ~~developed with a planning grant from the federal Centers for~~
6 ~~Disease Control and Prevention.~~ *and utilization of existing health*
7 *and environmental surveillance information to support*
8 *examination of the relationship between health and the*
9 *environment.*
- 10 (2) Oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the
11 final report of the working group established pursuant to this
12 chapter.
- 13 (3) Facilitate the dissemination of surveillance data to the
14 public and researchers and provide technical assistance on how to
15 interpret the data.
- 16 (4) Develop data sharing agreements, and develop procedures
17 to protect individual privacy.
- 18 (5) Develop a strategic plan that would include a mission
19 statement, critical issues, core priorities for research and
20 surveillance, identification of internal and external stakeholders,
21 and a work plan describing future program development.
- 22 (6) Collate and analyze data, including, but not limited to, all
23 of the following:
- 24 (A) Identifying trends and geographic patterns of disease and
25 environmental hazards or exposures.
- 26 (B) Analyzing hazards, exposures, and diseases with relation
27 to socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity.
- 28 (C) Provide baseline data and present descriptive information
29 relevant to policy formation that are consistent with existing
30 goals of the program.
- 31 (7) Develop a strategic plan, in consultation with the Office of
32 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, for obtaining missing
33 information on chemicals as necessary for analyzing significant
34 environmental exposures and potentially damaging health and
35 environmental effects, including reports from the National
36 Academy of Sciences and other relevant studies.
- 37 (8) Produce a report to the Legislature once every two years
38 on the status of surveillance activities and related research
39 programs.

1 (e) The office of health tracking shall use the program's
2 existing advisory bodies composed of members selected from
3 impacted communities, local government, environmental
4 advocacy groups, the regulated community, labor, and other
5 nongovernmental organizations to review and comment on its
6 findings, to provide input on future directions, to comment on the
7 biennial report, and to ensure accountability to communities and
8 the public.

9 (f) Any additional funding for the office of health tracking,
10 beyond funds that the Legislature may appropriate for the
11 research scientists required by subdivision (c), shall come from
12 federal or private sources. The office of health tracking shall
13 establish a state infrastructure that would signal the commitment
14 of the state to environmental health surveillance to private and
15 federal funding sources and thus, would facilitate further funding
16 for the office. Federal sources that should be targeted for funding
17 include the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences
18 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
19 Private sources for funding may include the California Wellness
20 Foundation, the California Endowment, the National
21 Environmental Education and Training Foundation, the Trust for
22 America's Health, and the Public Health Trust. The CDC-funded
23 California Environmental Health Tracking Program will be
24 submitting a competitive renewal for its program activities in
25 spring 2006. This mechanism would fund surveillance activities
26 over a five-year period. The half-time research scientists shall
27 work closely with the extramurally funded staff from the
28 CDC-funded tracking program to propose program activities that
29 could overlap with the goals and mission of the office of health
30 tracking.

31 SEC. 3. *It is the intent of this act that activities proposed*
32 *shall not be carried out at the expense of any of the department's*
33 *existing registry activities.* During the first year after it is
34 established, the office of health tracking shall do all of the
35 following:

36 (a) Develop and sign cooperative agreements for data sharing
37 between the office of health tracking, the Division of Chronic
38 Disease and Injury Control in the department, and the boards,
39 departments, and offices of the California Environmental
40 Protection Agency. These agreements shall be modeled after the

1 recent Memorandum of Understanding signed by the United
2 States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States
3 Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate
4 collection of health and environmental data.

5 (b) Develop a strategic plan that shall include (1) a mission
6 statement, (2) identification of both critical issues and core
7 priorities for research and surveillance and internal and external
8 stakeholders, and (3) a work plan describing future program
9 development.

10 (c) Develop extramural proposals to seek federal and
11 foundation funds to establish pilot tracking projects, fund
12 additional staff positions, and develop solid cost estimates and
13 proposals for a tracking function.

14 SEC. 4. It is the Legislature's intent to provide funding to the
15 State Department of Health Services and the California
16 Environmental Protection Agency for the research scientist
17 positions required by subdivision (c) of Section 104324.27, as
18 added by this act, in the 2005-06 Budget Act. *It is the*
19 *Legislature's intent to provide that funding without reducing*
20 *existing levels of funding provided to other surveillance*
21 *programs administered by the State Department of Health*
22 *Services.*

23 SEC. 5. This act shall only be implemented if the State
24 Department of Health Services and the California Environmental
25 Protection Agency receive funding in the 2005-06 Budget Act for
26 the two 50-percent time research scientist positions required by
27 this act, and if the Department of Finance makes a determination
28 that sufficient federal or private moneys have been made
29 available to the state to fully implement this act.