

## Legislative Wrap-Up: Signed and Vetoed Health Bills Affecting Low-Income Consumers

The end of the 2015-16 legislative session was August 31<sup>st</sup>, and the Governor had until September 30 to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature. Following are new laws which will help consumers, effective January 1, 2017, unless otherwise noted. WCLP sponsored bills are **bolded**.

- [AB 72](#) (Bonta) protects consumers from surprise medical bills by prohibiting an enrollee from being charged more than their in-network cost-sharing when they obtain covered services from an in-network facility by an out-of-network provider, effective July 2017.
- [AB 635](#) (Atkins) sets some parameters for funds appropriated in this year's budget to conduct a study and establish a pilot program to evaluate a mechanism to provide and improve interpretation services for Medi-Cal patients who are limited English proficient.
- [AB 1696](#) (Holden) provides that tobacco cessation services are covered under Medi-Cal including all intervention recommendations by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.
- [AB 1726](#) (Bonta) requires the Department of Public Health to use additional separate collection categories and other tabulations for specified Asian groups and Pacific Islander groups.
- [AB 1795](#) (Atkins) expands eligibility for breast cancer screening under the Every Woman Counts program to symptomatic women under age 40 and provides Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program coverage for reoccurrence of the same cancer.
- [AB 2207](#) (Wood) requires DHCS to expedite the Denti-Cal provider enrollment process effective July 2017, require Medi-Cal managed care plans to cover and ensure dental screenings for all beneficiaries as a part of the initial health assessment, increase the department's oversight over access and utilization of Denti-Cal services and codify the data reporting and evaluation requirements for the Dental Transformation Initiative.
- [AB 2308](#) (Hernandez) provides uninsured students of the California State University and community colleges with information about health care coverage options.
- [AB 2394](#) (E Garcia) **clarifies that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit beginning July 2017.**
- [SB 586](#) (Hernandez) establishes the Whole Child Model program into the California Children's Services program in a limited number of County Organized Health System counties and extends the carve-out for all other counties to 2022.
- [SB 884](#) (Beall) requires the K-12 audit guide to include an audit procedure for educationally related mental health service expenditures, and requires the

California Department of Education to report outcomes for students who receive educationally related mental health services by June 30, 2017.

- [SB 908](#) (Hernandez) requires health plans and health insurers to notify contract holders in the individual and small group market if premium rates have been determined unreasonable or unjustified and gives the contract holders the option to obtain health coverage from another provider within 60 days.
- [SB 1135](#) (Monning) requires health plans and insurers to notify consumers and health care providers about patients' rights to timely access of care and language assistance in its evidence of coverage and provider directory, effective July 2017.
- [SB 1139](#) (Lara) prohibits the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development from denying an application for California's scholarship and loan forgiveness programs for health professionals based on the citizenship status or immigration status of the applicant.
- [SB 1159](#) (Hernandez) requires the Health and Human Services Agency to research the options for developing a cost, quality, and equity data atlas and report research by March 2017.
- [SB 1174](#) (McGuire) establishes a process for the California Medical Board to review physicians whose prescribing practices involving foster children conflict with safety guidelines.
- [SB 1339](#) (Monning) **streamlines intercounty transfer procedures for Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and CalFresh effective June 2017.**

Following are bills that were vetoed by the Governor with the Governor's veto message included:

- [AB 2077](#) (Burke) would require procedures for people to move between Medi-Cal and Covered California without being uninsured. [Veto message.](#)
- [AB 2821](#) (Chiu) would create the Housing for a Healthy California Program to provide rental assistance to Medi-Cal members who are homeless. [Veto message.](#)
- [SB 1466](#) (Mitchell) would require that existing screenings under the EPSDT Program include a trauma screen. [Veto message.](#)



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