

Health Care Legislation Affecting Low-Income Consumers as of June 21, 2018

Following is a summary of bills that affect the health of low-income Californians. Bills with a fiscal had to pass out of first house appropriations committee by May 25 and all bills had to pass out of the house of origin by June 1. The next two weeks will be a flurry of activity as bills are working their way through the second house before the Legislature recesses for the summer on July 6.

Medi-Cal					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 11	McCarty	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: screening services.	Senate Health	This bill would require screening services under the EPSDT program include developmental screening services for individuals zero to 3 years of age and be in compliance with the periodicity schedule and screening tools that are established by the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care.	
AB 1785	Nazarian	Medi-Cal eligibility: assets.	Senate Appropriations	Excludes the principal and interest of a 529 college savings plan, as defined, from the non-MAGI Medi-Cal assets test.	Support
AB 1963	Waldron	Medi-Cal: reimbursement: opioid addiction treatment.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would increase the reimbursement rate for Medi-Cal providers who are certified to prescribe medication-assisted treatment drugs.	
AB 2203	Gray	Medi-Cal: primary care services.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would, beginning July 1, 2019, require that the Medi-Cal rate for primary care services be not less than 100% of the Medicare rate, excluding services provided to individuals who are not eligible for the Medi-Cal program or Family PACT.	
AB 2233	Kalra	Medi-Cal: Assisted Living Waiver program.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to submit in 2019 to CMS a request for renewal of the Assisted Living Waiver program to increase the slots that would be phased in on a regional basis.	Support
AB 2427	Wood	Medi-Cal: anticompetitive conduct.	Senate Health	Prohibits "anti-competitive conduct" from Medi-Cal managed care plans.	Support
AB 2430	Arambula	Medi-Cal: program for aged and disabled persons.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would raise the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled income level to 138% FPL, an amount equivalent to most other Medi-Cal income levels for adults. Co-sponsors: DRC, Justice in Aging, and Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
AB 2436	Mathis	Medi-Cal: ground ambulance rates.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to establish payment rates for ground ambulance services based on changes in inflation.	
AB 2472	Wood	Health care coverage: Covered California.	Senate Appropriations	Requires Covered California to study the feasibility of offering additional public plans on Covered California.	
AB 2579	Burke	Medi-Cal: California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.	Senate Appropriations	Creates an express lane process to enroll in Medi-Cal for children and mothers receiving WIC.	Support
AB 2718	Friedman	Medi-Cal: CalWORKs: eligibility.	Senate Appropriations	Allows for 12 continuous months of Transitional Medi-Cal (TMC) for families leaving CalWORKS instead of 6 months, plus an additional 6 months if income is still below 185% FPL.	Support

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AB 2861	Salas	Medi-Cal: telehealth: substance use disorders.	Senate Health	This bill would require DHCS to allow a licensed practitioner of the healing arts or a certified substance use disorder counselor to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for substance use disorder services provided through telehealth in accordance with the Medicaid state plan.	
AB 2965	Arambula	Medi-Cal: immigration status.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to adults age 19-25 who but for their immigration status would be eligible.	Support
SB 275	Portantino	Alcohol and drug treatment: youth.	Assembly Health	The bill would require DHCS to convene an expert panel on or before March 1, 2019, to advise the department on the development of youth substance use disorder treatment, early intervention, and prevention quality standards and to adopt regulations on those standards by 2020.	
SB 974	Lara	Medi-Cal: immigration status: adults.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to adults age 65 and older who but for their immigration status would be eligible.	Support
SB 1108	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: conditions of eligibility or coverage.	Assembly Health	Prohibits DHCS from seeking or obtaining a federal Medicaid waiver to require work requirements, waiting periods, time limits, coverage lockouts, or any other condition of Medi-Cal eligibility or coverage not authorized by state or federal law.	Sponsor
SB 1264	Stone	Medi-Cal: hypertension medication management services.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would authorize pharmacists to provide hypertension management services to Medi-Cal members and to access the state health information exchange and any relevant continuity of care documents maintained by a health facility.	
SB 1287	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: medically necessary services.	Assembly Health	This bill would codify in state statute the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) standards for Medi-Cal services applied to children under age 21 to ensure the correct medical necessity standard is used for children under age 21. Co-sponsored by National Health Law Program and Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
SB 1322	Stone	Medi-Cal: comprehensive medication management.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would require comprehensive medication management services to be covered under the Medi-Cal program for beneficiaries who has been identified as high risk for poor health outcomes associated with medications, or as high risk for medication-related problems, and who has one or more chronic diseases.	

Access to Justice

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1526	Kalra	Civil actions: time of commencing.	Senate Judiciary	Reforms California's statute of limitations for consumer debt (including medical debt) so that a collection agency or original creditor cannot sue after the statute has run, and requires notice to the consumer that a debt may not be litigated or reported to a credit reporting agency when such activities are time-barred.	Sponsor
AB 2376	Stone, Mark	Civil actions: provisional remedies: injunctions.	Senate Floor	Clarifies which taxpayers can claim taxpayer standing to ensure that residents who do not own property or are not citizens can claim standing.	Sponsor

Civil Rights					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1971	Santiago	Mental health services: involuntary detention: gravely disabled.	Senate Judiciary	Expands the potential use of conservatorships for persons experiencing homelessness who have mental illness or substance use disorder expanding the definition of "gravely disabled."	Oppose
SB 1045	Wiener	Conservatorship: chronic homelessness: mental illness and substance use disorders.	Assembly Health	Expands the potential use of conservatorships for persons who have mental illness or substance use disorder through a new conservatorship process solely for persons who are also experiencing homelessness.	Oppose
SB 1152	Hernandez	Hospital patient discharge process: homeless patients.	Assembly Health	Places additional requirements on hospitals to ensure that patients are not discharged without appropriate shelter, clothing, and medical support.	Support
SB 1190	Skinner	Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program.	Assembly Public Safety	Establishes the Eugenics Sterilization Compensation Program to provide victim compensation to any survivor of state-sponsored sterilization conducted pursuant to eugenics laws that existed in the State of California between 1909 and 1979.	Support
Covered California					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2416	Wood	Health care coverage.	DIED in Appropriations	Requires a health care service plan that contracts with DHCS to offer Medi-Cal managed care or PACE plans to negotiate with Covered California to offer Exchange plans in service areas where there are 2 or fewer plans offering products on the Exchange. Largely amended into AB 2472.	Support
AB 2459	Friedman	Personal income taxes: credits: health insurance premiums.	Senate Governance & Finance	Would allow a California tax credit for people earning over 400% FPL to ensure that no one pays more than 8% of their income for a Bronze health plan starting January 1, 2019.	
AB 2565	Chiu	Affordability assistance: cost sharing.	Senate Appropriations	Provides additional premium assistance for Covered California.	Support
AB 3148	Arambula	Health care affordability assistance: cost sharing	DIED in Appropriations	Provides additional premium assistance for people on Covered California below 400% FPL.	Support
SB 1245	Leyva	Covered California.	Assembly Appropriations	Allows Covered California to continue using emergency rulemaking authority.	Support
SB 1255	Hernandez	Health insurance market: financial assistance.	Assembly Health	Provides additional premium assistance and cost-sharing reductions for Covered California enrollees.	Support
Dental					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2643	Irwin	Dentistry: general anesthesia: health care coverage.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would expand health care coverage of general anesthesia beyond hospital and surgery centers, amends the required informed consent language for dental anesthesia provided to minors to include nonsurgical treatment options, and specifies informed consent for minors is only for general anesthesia, not conscious sedation. Medi-Cal currently provides coverage when medically necessary regardless of setting.	
SB 707	Cannella	Medi-Cal: Denti-Cal Advisory Group.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would, until January 1, 2023, establish the Denti-Cal Advisory Group to study the policies and priorities of Denti-Cal.	Support

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SB 1008	Skinner	Health insurance: dental services: reporting and disclosures.	Assembly Health	This bill would require dental insurance plans to use a uniform summary of benefits form that explains benefits and coverage concisely allowing for easy comparisons across dental plans.	Support
SB 1148	Pan	Medi-Cal: restorative dental services.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would authorize a Denti-Cal provider to use silver diamine fluoride as a caries arresting agent after consultation with the beneficiary, including informed consent, and as part of a comprehensive treatment plan.	
SB 1464	Wiener	Medi-Cal: benefits: enrollees with special dental care needs.	Assembly Health	This bill would require DHCS cover behavior management and dental case management necessary to provide dental services for Denti-Cal beneficiaries with special dental care needs and establish reimbursement for these services.	Support
Disparities Reduction					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1909	Nazarian	In-home supportive services: written content translation.	Senate Appropriations	Requires DSS to translate notices, timesheets, and other forms for IHSS workers.	Support
AB 2275	Arambula	Medi-Cal managed care: quality assessment and performance improvement.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would improve the quality of health care services provided by Medi-Cal managed care plans and reduce health disparities by holding plans accountable so that Medi-Cal enrollees achieve better health outcomes. Co-sponsors: CPEHN and Western Center.	Co-Sponsor
AB 2299	Chu	Medi-Cal: managed care plans: informational materials.	Senate Health	Requires DHCS to ensure that all written health education and informing materials produced by managed health care plans, whether in English or threshold languages, are subject to a readability checklist and a community review.	Co-Sponsor
AB 2434	Bloom	Strategic Growth Council: Health in All Policies Program.	Senate Environmental Quality	Requires the Strategic Growth Council to establish a Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force to incorporate health, equity, and sustainability considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas.	Support
SB 1423	Hernandez	Medi-Cal: oral interpretation services.	Assembly Appropriations	Modifies the minimum qualifications that an interpreter is required to possess to provide oral interpretation services to an LEP beneficiary enrolled in either a Medi-Cal managed care plan or a mental health plan.	Support
Health Insurance Market					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 595	Wood	Health care service plans: mergers and acquisitions.	Senate Judiciary	This bill would require prior approval by the director of the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) for a health plan that intends to merge or consolidate with any entity and allows the DMHC director to disapprove a transaction if the transaction would substantially lessen competition.	Support
AB 2499	Arambula	Health care coverage: medical loss ratios.	Senate Appropriations	Codifies into state law the ACA regulation to maintain a 85% medical loss ratio requirement for plans sold in the large group market and 80% for those sold in the small or individual market.	Support
AB 2941	Berman	Health care coverage: state of emergency.	Senate Appropriations	Requires a health care service plan or health insurer to ensure its enrollees or insureds who have been displaced by a state of emergency have continued access to medically necessary health care services.	Support

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SB 910	Hernandez	Short-term limited duration health insurance.	Assembly Appropriations	Prohibits the sale of short-term health insurance in California.	Support
SB 1156	Leyva	Health care service plans: 3rd-party payments.	Assembly Health	Adds requirements for a person or company that purchases health insurance on behalf of somebody else if the purchaser stands to benefit financially from that health insurance policy.	
Lead Testing					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2122	Reyes	Medi-Cal: blood lead screening tests.	Senate Health	This bill would require DHCS to ensure that a child enrolled in Medi-Cal receives blood lead screening tests, require DHCS to report blood lead screening tests for all enrolled children annually on its website, and notify and educate parents and providers.	Support
AB 2370	Holden	Lead exposure: child day care facilities: family day care homes.	Senate Environmental Quality	This bill would require licensed child care centers, to demonstrate that their drinking water is not contaminated with lead and would require the Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the State Water Resources Control Board, to adopt drinking water testing requirements for licensed child care centers by July 1, 2020.	Support
AB 2976	Quirk	Childhood lead poisoning: prevention.	Senate Health	This bill would require the Department of Public Health to coordinate with the Department of Health Care Services to gather data to determine whether children on Medi-Cal are being screened for lead poisoning.	
SB 1041	Leyva	Childhood lead poisoning prevention.	Assembly Health	This bill would require the Department of Public Health to notify medical providers about, and the providers to inform parents about, state and federal child lead-testing requirements.	Support
SB 1097	Hueso	Lead poisoning.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require case management efforts related to lead poisoning report to contain specified information for each county, including the number of children screened for risk of lead poisoning.	Support
Managed Care					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2674	Aguiar-Curry	Health care service plans: disciplinary actions.	Senate Health	This bill would require DMHC to review provider complaints that a health plan has underpaid or failed to pay the provider and to assess an administrative penalty if the plan is found in fault.	
SB 997	Monning	Health care service plans: physician to enrollee ratios.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill removes the sunset date, thereby continuing the operation that requires a health plan to ensure that there is at least one FTE primary care physician for every 2,000 enrollees.	
SB 1285	Stone, Jeff	Health care coverage: advanced practice pharmacist.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would require health plan coverage, including Medi-Cal managed care plans, for services provided by an advanced practice pharmacist, including but not limited to comprehensive medication management (CMM).	
Mental Health					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1893	Maienschein	Maternal mental health: federal funding.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require the Department of Public Health to investigate and apply for federal funds regarding maternal mental health and to prepare a report to the Legislature on how the department plans to efforts to secure and utilize the federal funding it receives.	

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AB 2112	Santiago	Federal 21st Century Cures Act: community-based crisis response plan: grant.	Senate Health	This bill would require DHCS to develop and submit a proposal to solicit a grant under the federal 21st Century Cures Act to develop a community-based crisis response plan.	
AB 2119	Gloria	Foster care: gender affirming health care and behavioral health services.	Senate Judiciary	This bill would, upon the request of a minor or nonminor in foster care, or caregiver, attorney, Court Appointed Special Advocate, or social worker, require the county child welfare agency to ensure that the minor or nonminor in foster care has access to gender affirming health care and gender affirming behavioral health services.	Support
AB 2193	Maienschein	Maternal mental health.	Senate Health	This bill would require OB/GYN and providers who are supervised by OB/GYN who treat mothers, children, or both, to screen mothers for maternal mental health conditions during pregnancy, during the postpartum period, or both and to report the screening's findings to the mother's primary care physician (PCP) if the provider is not the mother's PCP.	
AB 2287	Kiley	Mental Health Services Act: transparency and accountability.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would require the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to develop a local government transparency and accountability strategy for local mental health programs that includes fiscal, program and outcome components.	
AB 2316	Eggman	Mental health: county patients' rights advocates: training materials.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require the contracted entity that provides protection and advocacy services to persons with mental disabilities to make patients' rights advocacy training materials readily accessible to all county patients' rights advocates online.	
AB 2393	Committee on Health	Mental health.	Assembly Concurrence	This bill would implement the Mental Health Compliance Plan by prohibiting a county from charging Medi-Cal beneficiaries for specialty mental health services, and would authorize a county to charge fees to individuals who are not Medi-Cal beneficiaries.	Support
AB 2843	Gloria	Mental Health Services Fund.	Assembly Floor	This bill would add cities, special districts, school districts, or other public entities to the list of entities eligible to receive an excess of Mental Health Services Act funds subject to reversion for the provision of mental health services.	
AB 2895	Arambula	Primary Care Spending Transparency Act.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would require a health plan to annually report its total primary care expenditures to CHSS; require CHHS to annually post this information on website; and direct CHHS to adopt rules prescribing the primary care services for which costs are reported.	
SB 906	Beall	Medi-Cal: mental health services: peer support specialist certification.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require DHCS to establish a Peer Support Specialist Certification Program.	Support
SB 1004	Wiener	Mental Health Services Act: prevention and early intervention.	Assembly Appropriations	This bill would require the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to establish priorities for the use of prevention and early intervention funds and to develop a statewide strategy for monitoring implementation as well as require counties to focus the prevention and early intervention portion of its local plan on the priorities established by the commission.	

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SB 1019	Beall	Youth mental health and substance use disorder services.	Assembly Education	This bill would authorize schools and county mental health plan networks to enter into partnerships for targeted interventions for pupils with behavioral health needs and codifies the Mental Health Services Accountability and Oversight Commission's recommendation to allocate at least half of the triage grant funding for services targeted to youth 18 years of age or younger.	Support
SB 1125	Atkins	Federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services.	Assembly Health	This bill would allow FQHCs and RHCs to bill Medi-Cal for two visits if a patient is provided mental health services on the same day they receive other medical services.	Support
SB 1206	De León	No Place Like Home Act of 2018.	Assembly Health	This bill would get the No Place Like Home Act, which would distribute \$2 billion dollars of Prop. 63 funds among counties to finance capital costs of permanent supportive housing for individuals living with a severe mental illness who are homeless or at risk of chronic homelessness, on the November 6, 2018 ballot.	Support

Prescription Drugs

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 1860	Limón	Health care coverage: cancer treatment.	Senate Health	Deletes a sunset on cost caps on copayments for oral anticancer medication.	
AB 1998	Rodriguez	Opioids: safe prescribing policy.	Senate Health	This bill would require providers authorized to prescribe opioid drugs to adopt a safe prescribing protocol and establishes an unspecified goal for a percentage reduction in opiate prescriptions that must be reported on by the California Department of Public Health by July 2024.	
AB 2384	Arambula	Medication-assisted treatment.	Senate Health	This bill would require most health insurers to cover medication-assisted treatment for Californians with opioid use disorder and naloxone for any person who is at risk of overdose. The bill sunsets in 2024.	Support
AB 2487	McCarty	Physicians and surgeons: continuing education: opiate-dependent patient treatment and management.	Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development	This bill would require a physician to complete a one-time continuing education course on either pain management and the treatment of terminally ill and dying patients or opiate-dependent patient treatment and management unless exempted.	
AB 2741	Burke	Prescription drugs: opioid medications: minors.	Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development	This bill would require a prescriber to comply with specified conditions when prescribing opioid medication to a minor, including not prescribing more than a 5-day supply of an opioid medication to that minor except in specified instances.	
AB 2760	Wood	Prescription drugs: prescribers: naloxone hydrochloride and other FDA-approved drugs.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require a prescriber to prescribe naloxone, a lifesaving opioid reversal drug, for patients when certain conditions are present and to provide specified education to those patients and their households.	Support
SB 1021	Wiener	Prescription drugs.	Assembly Appropriations	Removes the January 1, 2020 sunset on the \$250 monthly cost sharing prescription drug cap and prioritizes single-tablet HIV/AIDS regimens over multitablet regimens.	Support

Reimbursement and Rates

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 349	McCarty	Drug Medi-Cal Treatment Program: rate setting process.	Senate Health	This bill would require DHCS to adopt regulations by July 2020 on the method of determining the maximum allowable reimbursement rates for Drug Medi-Cal and group outpatient drug free services.	

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AB 2029	Garcia, Eduardo	Federally Qualified Health Clinics: rural health clinics.	Senate Health	This bill would expand the definition of a change in service scope relating to operating costs attributable to capital expenditures to include the adoption, implementation, or upgrade of a certified electronic health system.	
AB 2118	Cooley	Medi-Cal: emergency medical transportation services.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would exempt publicly owned or operated ground ambulance providers from the quality assurance fee imposed by the Medi-Cal Emergency Medical Transportation Reimbursement Act and would authorize a supplemental Medi-Cal reimbursement for these governmental entities through a managed care intergovernmental transfer program.	
AB 2502	Wood	Health care payments database.	Senate Health	Establishes the California Health Care Payments Database, an all-payer claims database for health care service plans. Will not likely move further as concept was included in the budget.	Support
AB 2593	Grayson	Air ambulance services.	Senate Health	This bill would prohibit balance billing by out of network emergency air ambulance providers and increase the Medi-Cal rate for air ambulance services.	Support
SB 1047	Nielsen	Medi-Cal: reimbursement rates: rural counties.	Senate Rules	This bill would state legislative intent to increase the Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for services provided by qualified providers in counties with both a population density under 300 persons per square mile and a total population under 500,000 persons.	
SB 1154	Portantino	Medi-Cal: beneficiaries with HIV or AIDS: managed care plans: reimbursement rates.	DIED in Appropriations	This bill would allow DHCS to determine either a separate capitation rate for each stage of HIV disease, or a blended rate that covers a person at any stage of HIV disease.	

Women's Health

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
SB 320	Leyva	Public university student health centers: medication abortion readiness: abortion by medication techniques: College Student Health Center Sexual and Reproductive Health Preparation Fund.	Assembly Higher Education	Requires the UC and Cal State on-campus student health centers to prepare to provide abortion by medication and establishes the privately-funded Medication Abortion Implementation Fund pay for the services.	Support
SB 945	Atkins	Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program.	Assembly Health	Requires the BCCTP program to cover the entire duration of cancer treatment as long as the individual meets other eligibility requirements, thereby removing the 18 and 24 month cap. Already included in the budget through year 2021-2022.	Support
SB 1023	Hernandez	Reproductive health care coverage.	Assembly Health	Allows the use of telehealth in the Family PACT program and Medi-Cal managed care provided clinical guidelines are followed.	

Workforce

Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2018	Maienschein	Mental health workforce planning: loan forgiveness, loan repayment, and scholarship programs.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would adds psychiatric trainees to the list of healthcare providers eligible to participate in the Steve Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program.	

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AB 2143	Caballero	Mental health: Licensed Mental Health Service Provider Education Program.	Senate Health	This bill would add physician assistants who specialize in mental health services and psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners to those licensed mental health service providers eligible for educational loan repayment grant.	
AB 2539	Mathis	California Physician Corps Program: practice setting.	Senate Appropriations	This bill would require, for the Steve Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program, that the clinic or the physician owned and operated medical practice setting have at least 30% of patients, if the area is rural, or at least 50% of patients, if the area is urban, on Medi-Cal.	
Other					
Measure	Author	Topic	Location	Summary	WCLP Position
AB 2517	Wood	Health care coverage.	Senate Health	Commission to study the feasibility of a single payer system. Will not likely move further as concept was included in the budget.	Support
AB 2749	Bonta	State agencies: state entities: Internet Web site accessibility: standards.	Senate Governmental Organization	Requires state agency websites to be mobile friendly prevents such websites from going live until mobile friendly and accessible by individuals with disabilities.	Support
SB 1238	Roth	Patient records: maintenance and storage.	Assembly Health	Prevents the destruction of medical records without notification.	Support
SB 1396	Galgiani	Accessible state technology.	Assembly Appropriations	Requires enhanced monitoring and designates officers responsible for compliance with state and federal accessibility laws with regards to state websites.	Support

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