

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of February 13, 2023

## State Issues

New Bill  
Introduction  
Deadline

Today, February 17, is the last day for Legislators to introduce bills. To date, the Assembly has introduced almost 1,400 bills and the Senate has introduced 781. We can expect dozens more introduced today that will come into print in the next few days. A great number of spot bills are expected to be introduced that will require amendments with real policy content before they can be heard in policy committee and move through the process. While it will take several days for bills filed today and in the last few days to come into print, there are several major bills in print:

**SB 525 (Durazo): Minimum wage health care workers**, would set the minimum wage for all health care workers at \$25 per hour, with an automatic annual increase. The employees and health care settings covered by the bill is very broadly defined, including contract workers.

**AB 1091 (Wood): Health Care Consolidation and Contracting Fairness Act of 2023**, would grant the Attorney General greater authority over health care transactions to approve, deny or offer conditions. It would also prohibit health plans from having closed networks of providers.

**AB 1092 (Wood): Health care service plans: consolidation**, would grant the Attorney General greater authority over transactions made by health plans.

**AB 977 (Rodriguez): Emergency departments: assault and battery**, would make an assault or battery, committed against a physician, nurse, or other health care worker within the emergency department of a hospital, a crime.

**AB 666 (Arambula): Health Systems public benefit**, is a spot bill that will be amended to add more conditions on the nonprofit hospitals' public benefit programs. Dr. Arambula is likely to want more resources dedicated to physician education and training programs.

**AB 40 (Rodriguez): Emergency medical services**, requires the development of a statewide standard of 20 minutes, 90% of the time, for ambulance patient offload time into hospital emergency rooms.

**SB 424 (Durazo): California Children's Services Program**, will update and modernize several of the parameters of the CCS program, including eligible conditions and provider rates.

**AB 869 (Wood): Hospitals: seismic safety compliance**, would provide access to grant funding, exemption and/or timeline extension for certain small, rural hospitals and district hospitals to meet seismic compliance.

*(more)*

<p>State Launches Campaign to Help Californians Keep Medi-Cal Coverage</p>	<p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, federal rules prohibited states from disenrolling anyone from Medicaid. This “continuous coverage” requirement allowed millions of Californians to keep Medi-Cal coverage during an unprecedented health crisis. However, new federal legislation ends the continuous coverage requirement in March. Starting in April, California will have 14 months to resume normal renewal processes for all Medi-Cal enrollees. It is estimated that two to three million Californians may leave Medi-Cal due to the end of the continuous coverage requirement.</p> <p>The Department of Health Care Services has launched a statewide campaign with a new landing page, <a href="http://www.KeepMediCalCoverage.org">www.KeepMediCalCoverage.org</a>. The most important message right now is that enrollees who have moved or changed their phone number or email since 2020 need to update their contact information with Medi-Cal so they don’t miss alerts or notices about their renewal. You can learn more at these links about <a href="#">the DHCS campaign</a> and a CHCF report on the <a href="#">end of the continuous coverage requirement</a>.</p>
<p>New Legislative Analyst’s Office Reports</p>	<p>The Legislative Analyst’s Office has published several reports covering key health and human services sections of Governor Newsom’s January Budget proposal, as well as reports on the State’s overall fiscal status. These reports are used by the Legislature in their work to assess and consider proposals and make decisions on the State’s final spending plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Analysis of the Governor’s Major Behavioral Health Proposals</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Analysis of the Medi-Cal Budget</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The 2023-24 Budget: Assessment of Covered California Budget Solution</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Recent Housing and Homelessness Augmentations and Oversight</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Multiyear (Revenue) Assessment</a></li> </ul>

For more information, please contact Lori Dangberg at 1215 K Street, Suite 2000 ■ Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.591.3991 or e-mail: [ldangberg@thealliance.net](mailto:ldangberg@thealliance.net)