
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

SB 371 (Caballero) - Health information technology

Version: March 15, 2021

Policy Vote: HEALTH 11 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: May 20, 2021

Consultant: Samantha Lui, Karen French

Bill Summary: Establishes the California Health Information Technology (HIT) Advisory Committee and the position of Deputy Secretary for HIT within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) to provide information and advice to the Secretary on HIT and create an annual report.

Requires a health information organization to be connected to the California Trusted Exchange Network and to a qualified national network to facilitate bidirectional exchange of patient data across networks.

Requires a health care provider, health system, health plan, or health insurer that engages in health information exchange to do so in accordance with specified standards.

Requires the Department of Health Care Services to apply for funding made available through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 or the Medicaid Information Technology Architecture program for specified purposes.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 20, 2021

Fiscal Impact:

CHHS reports, “While we would anticipate costs related to the new position and responsibilities outlined in the bill, those costs are indeterminate at this time.” Staff notes that the addition of the new Deputy Secretary position would result in salary and benefit costs ranging from \$195,000 to \$265,000 annually from the General Fund.(based upon three existing Deputy Secretary positions in the Agency and salary ranges in the CDHR 2/2/21 published list of exempt positions).

Covered California reports no fiscal impact associated with this bill. DHCS, DMHC and CDPH have not provided potential cost information at this time.

The bill also permits CHHS, if funds are available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to utilize the California HIT and Exchange Fund for both of the following:

- a) Provide grants to small physician or dental practices, community health centers, critical access hospitals, and other safety net providers to help them implement or expand their use of HIT and connect to qualified health information networks; and,
- b) Contract with experienced organizations to provide direct data exchange technical assistance to safety net providers.

Author Amendments: Amend to add coauthors and incorporate privacy protections.

Committee Amendments: None

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