
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

SB 56 (Durazo) - Medi-Cal: eligibility

Version: March 1, 2021

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 20, 2021

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 2

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Karen French, Samantha Lui

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 56 would, subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another act approved by the Legislature, and effective July 1, 2022, extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals who are 65 years of age or older and are otherwise eligible for those benefits but for their immigration status.

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

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

Fiscal Impact: Staff estimates unknown, significant ongoing costs (low hundreds of millions General Fund) to Medi-Cal and the In-Home Supportive Services Program. Prior to the March 4, 2020 State of Emergency declaration and Executive Order N-33-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's 2020 Budget included a substantively similar proposal to this bill, with projected full-year implementation costs of approximately \$350 million (\$320 million General Fund). The assumption included that persons who would qualify for this expansion would already be receiving federally required coverage for emergency care. The Administration withdrew its proposal during the May Revision 2020. In addition, based on the latest Department of Finance (DOF) August 2020 analysis for a similar bill (SB 29, Durazo, 2020), estimated costs were \$163 million (\$153 million General Fund) and \$255 million (\$245 million GF), plus growth in the out-years, to Medi-Cal and In-Home Supportive Services programs. Amendments will further increase Medi-Cal costs to at least \$858 million annually General Fund.

Author Amendments: Amend to increase eligibility from up to 19 years old to up to 25, to eliminate state contract option of bid/nonbid and to add co-authors.

Committee Amendments: Amend to lower eligibility age from 65 to 60 years old.

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