

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1778 (Patterson) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

Policy Committee:	Business and Professions	Vote:	19 - 0
	Public Safety		9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the classification of testosterone under California’s Uniform Controlled Substances Act (UCSA) to conform to its classification under the federal Controlled Substances Act, including any future rescheduling or exemption.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No significant state costs.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

[This bill] is about ensuring consistency and clarity in our laws. If the federal government changes how testosterone is classified, California should not be stuck operating under outdated rules that create confusion for doctors, pharmacists, and patients. Right now, state law would not automatically adjust if federal law changes, and this opens the door to unnecessary red tape and conflicting standards. [This bill] simply keeps California aligned with federal scheduling decisions, providing a clear and consistent framework moving forward.

2) **Background.** Testosterone is essential to the development of male growth and masculine characteristics. Testosterone is currently approved solely for use in men who lack or have low testosterone levels in conjunction with an associated medical condition. Testosterone is also widely used as part of gender-affirming hormone therapy for transgender men and some nonbinary individuals, where it is considered a medically necessary treatment by major medical organizations.

Testosterone and other anabolic steroids are also associated with non-medical use, particularly in athletic performance enhancement and bodybuilding. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has identified anabolic steroid misuse, including testosterone, as a persistent concern due to risks of cardiovascular harm, liver damage, and hormonal disruption. Additionally, the World Anti-Doping Agency prohibits testosterone use in competitive sports due to its performance-enhancing effects.

Testosterone has been classified as a Schedule III controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act since Congress passed the Anabolic Steroids Control Act of 1990.

In December 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) convened an expert panel on testosterone replacement therapy to evaluate its safety, appropriate clinical use, and potential risks, including misuse and overprescription, indicating the FDA is reviewing new evidence on testosterone therapy and considering expanded approved uses, signaling potential shifts in federal regulation such as rescheduling testosterone in the near future.

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