

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1794 (Ransom) – As Amended April 15, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 18 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

The bill authorizes a pharmacist, manufacturer, or wholesaler to participate in an arrangement that allows direct delivery of prescribed enteral nutrition products to a patient's home.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

The California State Board of Pharmacy (CSBP) anticipates minor and absorbable costs to educate licensees through various means and to promulgate regulations.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by the California Association of Medical Product Suppliers (CAMPS). According to the author:

Patients and families face unnecessary barriers to obtaining enteral formula; for medically fragile patients it can be difficult or even dangerous to make trips to the pharmacy to pick up a food product. That is an unacceptable barrier. Nutrition delivered through enteral products, defined as "medical food," should be as accessible for patients as the grocery store. [This bill] makes access to these medically necessary formulas simple and straightforward for patients, allowing the formula to be shipped directly to their front door, because no one should struggle to obtain the nutrition they need to survive and thrive.

- 2) **Background.** Enteral nutrition utilizes medical devices, such as nasal or stomach feeding tubes, to bypass the mouth and access the gastrointestinal (GI) tract directly. The California Pharmacy Law and federal law specifically exempt food, which is defined to include enteral nutrition, from the definition of a drug. Consequently, enteral nutrition is not regulated as a drug and is not mentioned in the CSBP regulations. When enteral nutrition is prescribed, a pharmacist may still process the prescription for labeling or payor reimbursement purposes, but there is no Pharmacy Law impediment to delivering food directly to a consumer.

CAMPS explains that Home Medical Device Retailers (HMDRs) were able to distribute enteral nutrition items under fee-for-service Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal managed care in the same manner. However, when Medi-Cal Rx was implemented in January 2022, only pharmacies were able to distribute enteral nutrition. The pharmacy benefit manager for

California's Medi-Cal Rx program recently notified providers that drop shipping would no longer be acceptable as dispensing of these nutrition items would require a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to pull and label the items. CAMPS states this policy poses serious repercussions for those who rely on enteral nutrition formulas for their daily nutritional needs.

- 3) **Opposition.** The California Pharmacists Association (CPA) writes in opposition that enteral nutrition products interact with several prescription drugs and, among other things, affect absorption, which could lead to subtherapeutic levels, treatment failure, or toxicity. CPA further argues that exempting manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors from the patient protection provisions in the Pharmacy Law undermines the statute's longstanding commitment to safeguarding patients.

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