
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1868 (Hadwick) - Health facilities: cardiac surgery

Version: June 8, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 11 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 1868 would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to update state regulations relating to extracorporeal bypass surgery, as specified.

Fiscal Impact: The CDPH estimates annual costs of \$251,000 in fiscal years 2027-28 through 2029-30 for staffing resources to develop and facilitate the completion of the regulation package (Licensing and Certification Fund).

Background: Extracorporeal bypass, or cardiopulmonary bypass, is a procedure that diverts blood circulation away from the heart and lungs, and is a routine part of many heart surgeries. Instead of flowing through the heart and lungs, the blood drains into a machine outside of the body, which takes over the jobs of the heart and lungs, including adding oxygen to the blood, removing carbon dioxide, and then pumping the refreshed blood back into the body. While on the machine, patients are given medication that temporarily stops the heart from beating. This is sometimes referred to as being “on the pump,” and allows the surgeon to work in a still and bloodless space. People who have the following surgeries may need cardiopulmonary bypass: coronary artery bypass grafting, aneurysm surgery, heart transplant, heart valve surgery, and lung transplants. However, some open-heart surgeries are done using “off-pump bypass surgery,” where a surgeon uses a device to stabilize the heart during surgery. Because the heart still beats during the surgery, another name for off-pump surgery is “beating heart” surgery.

State regulations require, under cardiovascular operative service staff requirements, a minimum of three surgeons to constitute a surgical team for the performance of all cardiovascular operative procedures which require extracorporeal bypass, at least one of which needs to meet specified requirements in existing regulations.

Proposed Law: AB 1868 would require CDPH, on or before January 1, 2030, to update specified state regulations related to staff requirements to reflect current professional standards of care relating to extracorporeal bypass surgery.

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