

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1907 (Addis) – As Introduced February 12, 2026

Policy Committee: Health Vote: 16 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill expands an existing enrollment process to allow a complete application for an insurance affordability program submitted through the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) to enroll individuals into specified health coverage through Covered California, beginning January 1, 2028.

The bill requires Covered California use the available information to opt a person into one of the following:

- 1) The plan in which other members of their household are enrolled.
- 2) The lowest cost plan available to an eligible Indian, as specified in federal law.
- 3) The lowest cost silver plan available.
- 4) A plan offered by the individual’s previous Medi-Cal managed care plan, if the information is available.

This bill also requires Covered California provide an individual who is enrolled in a plan pursuant to this bill with a notice that includes specified information about the plan in which the individual is enrolled, how to effectuate coverage in the selected plan, the individual’s right to select another available plan or to not enroll in a plan, and how to receive help in selecting a plan, among other things.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Covered California estimates the system modifications necessary to support the expansion of the auto-enrollment program is projected to incur approximately \$500,000 in costs related to the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS). In addition, there will be minimal expenditures associated with marketing and communications efforts to educate newly auto enrolled consumers (California Health Trust Fund).

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

**COMMENTS:**

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

In recent years, the introduction of auto-enrollment greatly boosted California's mission to ensure total health coverage for its residents. Despite this progress, changes in healthcare at the federal level will cause up to 3.4 million Californians to lose coverage. This bill will help connect people with affordable coverage plans based on the information they have already submitted, thus streamlining the process and reducing gaps in coverage. [This bill] is the next step towards ensuring that no Californian falls through the cracks when it comes to obtaining and maintaining not just the health care they can afford, but the health care they deserve.

**2) Background.** Covered California is California's health benefit exchange for individual and small business purchasers authorized under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). SB 260 (Hurtado), Chapter 845, Statutes of 2019, established automatic enrollment for a person who loses Medi-Cal eligibility and instead qualifies for Covered California. Such an individual receives an eligibility notice when they are disenrolled from Medi-Cal and auto-enrolled in the lowest-cost silver plan available, or a plan offered by the individual's previous Medi-Cal managed care plan. Since this program started in 2023, over 200,000 people have been automatically enrolled into coverage through Covered California.

This bill extends the provisions of SB 260 to include new applicants found eligible through SAWS, the county eligibility system for determining and managing eligibility and benefits for various public assistance programs at the county level, including Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKS. Currently, a person who applies for health coverage through SAWS and is found income-eligible for Covered California receives one notice from SAWS and another from Covered California telling them of their eligibility for coverage through Covered California, the amount of their premium tax credit and the date by which the person needs to choose a plan. This person must then use CalHEERS (the state's centralized, automated system for determining eligibility for, and enrollment in Medi-Cal or Covered California) to choose a health plan, because SAWS does not have a health plan selection option for plans offered through Covered California. This bill simplifies the Covered California plan selection process. Covered California estimates that more than 100,000 people each year could benefit from this change.

**3) Prior Legislation.** AB 1419 (Addis), of the current legislative session, was substantially similar to this bill and was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

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