
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1979 (Bonta) - Health care services: artificial intelligence

Version: July 2, 2026

Policy Vote: P., D.T., & C.P. 7 - 2,
HEALTH 8 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: Yes

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Consultant: Bob Franzoya

Bill Summary: AB 1979 would require health care providers that offer health care chatbots comply with the California Medical Information Act for the purposes of protecting private health information.

Fiscal Impact: Costs of an unknown amount to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to ensure health facilities, clinics, and physician offices comply with the provisions of this bill. If CDPH adopts regulations, one-time costs could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars (Licensing and Certification Fund).

The Department of Consumer Affairs reports most healing arts boards anticipate an increase in workload due to a higher volume of complaints resulting from this bill. However, the boards are unable to estimate the increase in complaint volume or related enforcement costs due to the lack of data on how frequently artificial intelligence (AI) violations occur (various special funds).

Potentially significant costs to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to bring civil actions for violations against any person who engages in a deceptive act or practice. Actual costs will depend on the number of enforcement actions pursued by DOJ and the amount of additional work created by each action, but costs may be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. In addition, Civil Code Section 56.36 provides private plaintiff actions.

Cost pressures of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts to adjudicate any additional filings. Although courts are not funded based on workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts. The proposed FY 2026-07 Governor's budget would provide \$70 million General Fund support (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).