

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2030 (Lowenthal) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee:	Health	Vote:	12 - 1
	Judiciary		9 - 2

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

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits a person or retailer from selling over-the-counter (OTC) diet pills and weight loss supplements to minors, unless the minor has a physician’s prescription.

Specifically, this bill does the following, among other things:

- 1) Prohibits a person from selling, offering to sell, or giving away an OTC diet pill or dietary supplement for weight loss or muscle building (collectively, diet pill) to any person under 18 years of age.
- 2) Requires a retail establishment to request valid identification from any person who attempts to purchase diet pills if the retail establishment cannot reasonably determine that the person appears to be under 18 years of age.
- 3) Provides that a retail establishment may limit access to diet pills in a manner designed to prevent unauthorized access to those products.
- 4) Requires a delivery seller, including an online retailer, who mails or ships diet pills to consumers, to adhere to specified restrictions to prevent access to a person under 18 years of age.
- 5) Authorizes the Attorney General (AG), a county counsel, or a city attorney to apply to a court for a temporary or permanent injunction enjoining or restraining any person or entity from violating any provisions of this bill.
- 6) Makes a person who violates any provisions of this bill liable for a civil penalty of no more than \$1,000 for each violation, and specifies that these penalties may be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the AG, a county counsel, or a city attorney in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- 7) Provides that the penalties established by this bill are cumulative.
- 8) Entitles a prevailing party in an action brought pursuant to this bill’s provisions to an award of reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.
- 9) Provides that a court, when determining whether a supplement is “labeled, marketed, or otherwise represented for the purpose of achieving weight loss or muscle building,” may

consider specified factors, including ingredients, labeling or marketing, or how the retail establishment or delivery seller has placed, grouped, or represented the product.

- 10) Specifies that the bill's provisions do not apply to a person under 18 years of age with a prescription for a diet pill.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) of an unknown but potentially significant amount to the courts to adjudicate any additional civil action filings. Actual costs will depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately \$1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. 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 from the General Fund. The state budget provides annual General Fund backfills to the Trial Court Trust Fund to offset revenue reductions, totaling approximately \$117.3 million in 2025-26.

The Department of Justice anticipates no costs.

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.** This bill is sponsored by the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders. According to the author:

The growing public health threat posed by youth access to over-the-counter diet pills and muscle-building supplements is concerning and deserves immediate action. Nearly 1 in 10 young people report to have used these potentially harmful weight loss products in their lifetime. These products are aggressively marketed to young people, often online and on social media platforms, with promises of rapid weight loss, dramatic body transformation, and increased muscle mass, despite carrying serious risks including organ failure, heart attack, stroke, severe liver injury, testicular cancer, and even death. Many have been found to contain undisclosed ingredients such as illegal steroids, pharmaceutical drugs, heavy metals, or previously banned thermogenic stimulants. Because dietary supplements are not subject to the same premarket approval standards as prescription medications, dangerous products often remain on store shelves until after significant harm occurs...

[This bill] addresses this gap by establishing clear, enforceable age restrictions on the sale of products marketed as weight loss or muscle building supplements. This bill creates meaningful safeguards like those already in place for other age restricted products such as tobacco and alcohol. Research shows that the use of weight-loss and muscle-building supplements is associated with higher rates of eating disorders, body dysmorphia, depression, and other mental health

vulnerabilities among adolescents. [This bill] represents a practical, immediate step to protect California's young people from preventable harm and to ensure that their health and well-being come before deceptive marketing and unregulated industry practices.

- 2) **Background.** Governor Newsom vetoed AB 1341 (C. Garcia), of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, which would have prohibited the sale of diet pills to any person under 18 years of age and would have required a retailer to check identification. The veto message directed the California Department of Public Health to form a workgroup for the purpose of developing public policy recommendations on the best way to address this important public health challenge. The workgroup put forward several policy ideas, many of which are similar to provisions of this bill, including restricting the sale of diet pills to adults, mandating that such products be kept behind the counter or otherwise made inaccessible to minors, and granting the AG authority to enforce proposed restrictions and specifying the factors that the AG and retailers can look for, such as: those ingredients currently approved for weight loss by the FDA in prescription drugs and possible ingredients such as green tea extract, raspberry ketone, green coffee bean extract, garcinia cambogia, and any other product marketed for weight loss.
- 3) **Opposition.** The National Products Association notes dietary supplements are already subject to a comprehensive federal framework and there is no evidence linking lawful supplements to eating disorders. Further, the Association contends that the bill would disproportionately burden independent health food stores, pharmacies, convenience retailers, and small regional chains, noting “[t]hese businesses rely on lawful supplement sales and would be forced to implement age-verification systems and compliance protocols without clear evidence of public health benefit.”

Analysis Prepared by: Allegra Kim / APPR. / (916) 319-2081