

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2194 (Valencia) – As Amended March 26, 2026

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill makes changes to the governance of the Orange County Health Authority, which administers CalOptima, the county organized health system serving Medi-Cal members in Orange County.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Creates specified staggered terms for the CalOptima board by requiring members occupying three specified seats each to serve a two-year term, and thereafter requiring such members each to serve a four-year term.
- 2) Clarifies processes related to filling CalOptima board vacancies.
- 3) Specifies an alternate member from the Board of Supervisors has the same right of access as any other member to books, communications, documents, and records.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

Purpose. This bill is sponsored by the County of Orange. According to the author:

CalOptima serves nearly one in three Orange County residents, and its governance structure needs to be strong enough to match that responsibility. Currently, CalOptima faces two challenges with its current structure. First, all seven four-year board member terms expire at the same time, presenting the risk of sudden mass turnover and the loss of institutional knowledge. Additionally, the board's alternate member lacks access to critical information needed to step in effectively. [This bill] addresses both issues by staggering board terms to ensure continuity of leadership and clarifying that alternate members may access the information necessary to perform their role.

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