

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2292 (Ward) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Insurance

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits a physician or other licensed practitioner from charging an administrative fee to complete a certificate or form pertaining to eligibility or recertification for paid family or medical leave.

This bill maintains that a physician or practitioner may bill for medical services provided in connection with an exam, if such charges are not imposed solely for the completion of a certificate or form.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to applicable healing arts licensing boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs to receive and investigate related consumer complaints.

COMMENTS:

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

Californians who are temporarily unable to work due to illness, injury, pregnancy, or family leave should not face additional financial barriers when accessing [State Disability Insurance (SDI)] benefits they have contributed to. Unfortunately, some providers charge excessive administrative fees simply to complete the paperwork required to access these benefits. AB 2292 ensures that patients are not charged by their providers or practitioners for completing required SDI forms, removing an unnecessary burden during times of financial and medical hardship.

2) **SDI.** The SDI program provides partial wage replacement for a worker unable to work due to an injury that was not occupational in origin. Paid Family Leave (PFL) was enacted in 2002 as an expansion of the SDI program, extending disability compensation to individuals who take time off work to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or domestic partner, or to bond with a new minor child. SDI and PFL are financed solely by worker contributions through an employee payroll deduction, with the deduction and maximum benefit amount determined annually by the Employment Development Department (EDD). In order to qualify for SDI or PFL, an individual must submit a claim to EDD and undergo reasonable exams to demonstrate disability. The claimant must file a certificate from the treating

physician or practitioner that establishes the sickness, injury, or pregnancy of the employee or their family member demonstrating medical eligibility.

AB 2520 (Chiu), Chapter 101, Statutes of 2020, prohibits a health care provider from charging a fee to a patient for filling out forms or providing information responsive to forms supporting a claim or appeal regarding eligibility for a public benefit program. As noted in the Assembly Insurance Committee's analysis of this bill, it is unclear whether AB 2520 already applies to certificates and forms supporting a claim for SDI or PFL:

While SDI and PFL are not specifically listed among the many public benefit programs in the operative definition for "public benefit program," the definition indicates that "public benefit program *includes*" the listed programs. This suggests that the list is not exhaustive.

This bill explicitly prohibits a physician or practitioner from charging an administrative fee to complete a certificate or form pertaining to eligibility or recertification for SDI or PFL.

Analysis Prepared by: Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081