

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2343 (Patel) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a licensed alcohol or other drug (AOD) recovery or treatment facility (RTF) and a certified AOD program to participate in a consumer protection platform designated by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) as a condition of being licensed or certified. The bill authorizes DHCS to charge a reasonable fee to an AOD RTF or program required to enroll in the platform.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires a licensed AOD RTF and a certified AOD program to participate in a consumer protection platform designated or designed by DHCS.
- 2) Requires participation in the public consumer protection platform only if DHCS determines that sufficient funding has been appropriated or otherwise secured to cover the costs of participation in the platform, including, but not limited to, costs associated with platform operation and maintenance.
- 3) Authorizes DHCS to charge a reasonable fee to AOD RTFs and programs required to enroll in the platform and prohibits the administrator of the consumer protection platform, if DHCS contracts with an external administrator, from accepting payment from the entities participating under this bill.
- 4) Exempts from participation in the consumer protection platform licensed AOD RTFs and certified AOD programs contracted to provide Medi-Cal treatment services or contracted with DHCS, a county behavioral health department, or a county substance use disorder (SUD) division for the provision of SUD services.
- 5) Specifies that participation in the platform pursuant to this bill is required only if DHCS determines that sufficient funding has been appropriated or otherwise secured to cover the costs of participation in the platform, including, but not limited to, costs associated with platform operation and maintenance.
- 6) Authorizes DHCS to verify compliance with participation in the platform as part of the certification or licensing process.
- 7) Prohibits participation in the consumer protection platform from being used as a criterion in evaluating bids, proposals, or contract performance for publicly funded SUD treatment services.

- 8) Authorizes DHCS to implement, interpret, or make specific implementation of this bill by means of provider bulletins, written guidelines, or similar instructions

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs of an unknown amount to DHCS, potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to oversee expanded participation in the platform (Residential and Outpatient Program Licensing Fund). However, DHCS recently stated that current licensing and certification fees are not sufficient to support program expenses and would be increasing to the statutorily allowed maximum in fiscal year 2026-27. Because of DHCS's inability to raise fees further, this bill would likely result in cost pressures to the General 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.** This bill is sponsored by Shatterproof. According to the author:

To properly address addiction and substance use disorder, the existence of treatment programs is not enough; high-quality care must be accessible. When someone is ready to seek help, they should be able to find every licensed option available to them, compare programs based on their needs, and know with confidence that the facility they choose is operating legally. Right now, California has the infrastructure to make this possible, but voluntary participation leaves the directory incomplete and leaves patients to navigate a fragmented marketplace of unverified options at the most vulnerable moment of their lives. [This bill] closes that gap — reducing information costs, protecting consumers, and ensuring that the system we have built actually reaches the people it was designed to serve.

- 2) **Background.** According to a 2023 announcement from DHCS, Shatterproof is a national nonprofit that helps people find high-quality treatment, including outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential, and hospital inpatient addiction treatment, for SUDs. DHCS and Shatterproof partnered on a public awareness campaign, Unshame California, and on the Treatment Atlas, an addiction treatment locator, assessment, and standards platform that connects individuals to appropriate evidence-based addiction treatment. Shatterproof developed and manages the Treatment Atlas, a web-based platform that integrates criteria such as location, use of best practices, types of treatment offered, accepted insurers, payment options, specialty populations served, and patient experiences. This bill requires private AOD treatment facilities and programs to participate in DHCS's designated platform.

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