
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2368 (Bonta) - Low-income health care: internet website and information

Version: July 2, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 10 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 2368 would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish an internet website where the public can access information on safety-net health care services in the state.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown ongoing General Fund costs, potentially hundreds of thousands, for the DHCS to establish and maintain the internet website.
- Unknown ongoing costs to counties to report information to the DHCS. Costs to counties may be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

Background:

H.R. 1 (Public Law No 119-21). The Medi-Cal program provides health care services to qualified low-income individuals. The Medi-Cal program is primarily governed by the federal Medicaid program. H.R. 1 made a number of program changes that restrict eligibility and funding for the federal Medicaid program. This is expected to result in the loss of Medi-Cal coverage for a significant number of individuals. Changes include, but are not limited to:

- **Work requirements.** The new “community engagement requirements” (or “work requirements”) require nondisabled adults between the ages of 19 and 65 who gained coverage through the federal Affordable Care Act (“ACA expansion adults”) to demonstrate 80 hours of work, education, or volunteer activities in order to be eligible for Medicaid coverage, unless they qualify for a limited exemption.
- **Semiannual eligibility redeterminations.** H.R. 1 requires an eligibility redetermination process every 6 months for nondisabled adults between the ages of 19 and 65 who gained coverage through the federal Affordable Care Act (“ACA expansion adults”). Prior to the enactment of H.R. 1, the federal Medicaid program required the eligibility of all Medicaid recipients to be renewed once every 12 months or when the recipient reported a change in circumstances.

Safety-Net Health Care Programs. California has a number of safety-net health care programs that provide services to uninsured or underinsured individuals, including:

- Condition-specific screening or treatment health programs administered by DHCS for uninsured and underinsured individuals, including Family PACT which provides family planning services, the Every Women Counts program to provide breast and cervical cancer screening, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program to provide breast and cervical cancer treatment, the California Prostate Cancer Treatment Program to provide prostate cancer treatment, and the Genetically Handicapped Persons Program which provides coordinated care to adults with specific diseases.
- Counties must support residents who are low-income or incapacitated who are not otherwise supported by relatives, friends, their own means, or state or private institutions. This obligation has been interpreted by courts to require counties to provide subsistence medical care to those who cannot afford it.
- Hospital emergency departments must provide emergency screening and stabilization services without regard to the patient's insurance status or ability to pay.
- Hospitals must have charity care or discount payment policies for uninsured or underinsured patients with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.
- A "free clinic" is a nonprofit clinic that does not charge patients and a "community clinic" is a nonprofit clinic that only charges patients based on the patient's ability to pay, utilizing a sliding scale.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Require DHCS, in order to ensure that people have accurate and comprehensive information when accessing safety-net health care services in California, to establish an internet website where the public can access information on safety-net health care services in the state.
- Require the internet website to include all of the following information and resources:
 - A person's legally protected right to emergency medical care under state and federal law.
 - Payment support resources, including coverage options, state programs, hospital charity care, and other assistance that is available to help people access health care services.
 - Information about each county program that provides health care to low-income county residents who are uninsured or underinsured, as specified.
 - Any other information or resources that will assist an individual seeking comprehensive and accurate information about accessing affordable health care services in the state.

- Require the DHCS, in consultation with specified entities, to review the information and resources on the internet website to ensure that it is current and updated at reasonable intervals, but no less than once annually.
- Require each county to submit any changes to specified elements of county programs to the DHCS within 120 calendar days after either approval by the county's board of supervisors or an administrative or regulatory change, whichever is applicable.

-- END --