Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2442 (Patterson) – As Amended April 15, 2026

Policy Committee:	Health	Vote:	16 - 0
	Judiciary		12 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) convene a working group to study and make recommendations regarding the creation of a state-authorized research and investigational therapeutic framework to study the potential uses of investigational therapeutic and novel peptide compounds, as defined, the safety and efficacy of these compounds, and the public health implications of such compounds.

The bill requires the working group to develop policy recommendations regarding educational campaigns, authorization of compounds for regulated uses, and appropriate regulation of investigational therapeutic compounds and novel compounds. The bill requires the group to submit a report to the Legislature regarding its findings and recommendations.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs to CDPH of an unknown amount, likely in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars (General Fund). CDPH does not have any programs related to what this bill proposes, so convening the workgroup required by this bill would likely require significant contracting.

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.** According to the author:

> Gray markets have emerged with online retailers marketing peptides for "health benefits," while containing numerous disclaimers that suggest such peptides may not be suitable for human consumption. Concerns exist about the unknown risks, including potential toxicity, cancer-related effects, and complications from combining multiple peptides.
>
> Existing law does not provide a clear or defined regulatory framework for the research, testing, or medical use of investigational peptides and novel compounds, leaving uncertainty for patients, providers and researchers without safe, standardized pathways to access or study these treatments.

2) **Background.** Peptides are short strings of amino acids that play an essential role in numerous physiological processes. Examples of well-known, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved peptides include insulin and glucagon-like peptide-1 (or GLP-1).

   In 2023, the Biden Administration identified a list of peptides that posed potential safety risks and prohibited compounding of these peptides. While the FDA does not specifically approve compounded drugs, federal law may and does limit which drugs may be compounded. There have been reports of individuals buying peptides from online sellers with dubious claims regarding health benefits. Additionally, experts suggest these products could contain toxic contaminants and are often not tested in human clinical trials. Recently, the current federal administration has indicated that it will weigh lifting these restrictions, potentially increasing access to various compounded peptides.

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