

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2448 (Berman) – As Introduced February 20, 2026

Policy Committee:	Health	Vote:	12 - 3
	Privacy and Consumer Protection		11 - 3

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a business that electronically stores or maintains medical information on the provision of sensitive services, including on an electronic health record (EHR) system, to enable features that are required in existing law to protect information about sensitive services, such as gender affirming care and abortion-related services.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is co-sponsored by Attorney General Rob Bonta and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California. According to the author:

No patient should ever worry that their medical records will be used to criminalize or punish them – or their provider – for health care that is lawful in California. This is why the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed AB 352 [(Bauer-Kahan), Chapter 255, Statutes of 2023,] requiring businesses that electronically store or maintain medical information to enable technological capabilities to protect the privacy and security of medical records related to abortion, contraception, and gender affirming care. In the three years since AB 352’s enactment, attacks on reproductive and gender affirming care have only intensified. [This bill] reinforces state law to fully protect the privacy and security of their patients’ sensitive medical information.

- 2) **Background.** AB 352 required, by July 1, 2024, businesses like EHR system providers to “develop capabilities, policies, and procedures” that would protect patients’ sensitive healthcare information by preventing its sharing in a health information exchange. However, the language did not explicitly require providers to enable the capabilities by the deadline. This bill clarifies that the businesses were required to enable certain features to protect sensitive services information.

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