

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2613 (Sharp-Collins) – As Amended April 27, 2026

Policy Committee: Health Vote: 16 - 0

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

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a health plan to send written notice via text message or email, in addition to U.S. mail, to an affected enrollee at least 60 days before the termination date of a contract between the health plan and a provider group or a general acute care hospital (hospital). If, after sending the notice, the health plan reaches an agreement to continue the contract with the provider group or hospital, this bill requires the health plan to notify the enrollee within 60 days by U.S. mail and either text message or email. The bill also requires the plan to reassign the enrollee to another provider if the enrollee does not opt to return to the provider.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to the Department of Managed Health Care.

COMMENTS:

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

Across California, patients are increasingly caught in the middle of disputes and network changes driven by large health systems and insurance companies. When contracts break down or networks shift, patients are often reassigned to new providers with little notice. At the same time, our notification laws remain stuck in the past. Health plans continue to rely on paper mail as the primary method of communication, even as most Californians live and communicate in a digital world. These notices are often delayed, inaccessible, or never received, leaving patients unaware of major changes until they are denied care or faced with unexpected costs.

[This bill] requires automatic reinstatement of patients to their original provider when a network transition fails and modernizes notification requirements by allowing health plans to communicate through timely electronic methods, so patients receive critical information without delay.

2) **Background.** As noted in the Assembly Health Committee analysis of this bill, when a health plan's contract with a provider is terminated, the health plan is required to provide notifications by U.S. mail. However, many people do not regularly check their mail and rely

instead on electronic communication methods. This bill updates existing law to require health plans to provide electronic or text notifications on contract terminations, in addition to U.S. mail, to ensure enrollees receive important updates on the status of their coverage and care.

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