

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2756 (Ahrens) – As Amended April 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to report data on vision services in Medi-Cal and to develop related benchmarks and performance metrics to evaluate utilization, access, and availability of Medi-Cal vision services.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires DHCS to establish a list of performance measures designed to evaluate utilization, access, and availability of Medi-Cal vision services.
- 2) Requires performance measures to monitor the vision services for children and adults to include specified metrics, such as overall utilization, time to receive vision services, annual number of complaints from Medi-Cal beneficiaries regarding vision services, and provider-specific statistics, among others.
- 3) Requires performance measures to be reported as aggregate numbers and as percentages, apply to both fee-for-service and managed care, including information from specialized managed care plans; be reported with an equity framework that includes stratification by available geographic and demographic factors, and, include all rendering providers.
- 4) Requires DHCS to report on performance measures only to the extent data sources from which to calculate the applicable measure are available.
- 5) Requires DHCS to, when evaluating performance measures for retention of, addition to, or deletion from the list of performance measures, consider several specified criteria.
- 6) Requires, by January 1, 2028, DHCS post performance measures and related data for the 2026 calendar year, on DHCS's website.
- 7) Requires DHCS to establish an initial set of benchmarks for each performance measure, and requires the initial benchmarks for the 2027 calendar year to be no less than double the 2026 calendar year levels for the metric. Requires DHCS to establish a benchmark for each performance measure to ensure the utilization, access, and availability of vision services.
- 8) Requires DHCS to consult specified stakeholders in the establishment and updating of performance measures and benchmarks.

- 9) Requires DHCS to annually prepare a summary report on the nature and types of complaints and grievances regarding access to, and quality of, vision services, including the outcome. Specifies that DHCS is not required to develop new data for this report.
- 10) Requires, commencing on January 1, 2028, for the 2026 calendar year, and annually thereafter, for each preceding calendar year, the report to be posted on the department's website.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs to DHCS of an unknown amount, potentially exceeding \$150,000 in the first year to develop benchmarks. Costs to compile, analyze, and report data each year thereafter would likely be lower (General Fund, federal funds).

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 California Optometric Association. According to the author:

Growing up, I did not always have reliable access to healthcare. My twin brother also faced health complications, which made navigating those challenges at a young age even more difficult. Overcoming those obstacles shaped my perspective and is a big reason why this bill is so personal to me.

I look to have this bill go through to help support children who are in situations similar to what I experienced growing up. By ensuring timely access to eye exams and glasses, we can prevent students from falling behind in school due to vision problems that are both preventable and treatable.

- 2) **Background.** According to information provided by the author, existing law provides Medi-Cal coverage for routine eye exams and eyeglasses but does not require standardized, transparent performance monitoring to ensure beneficiaries actually receive timely and adequate vision care. As a result, only 16% of school-age children enrolled in Medi-Cal receive basic eye care over a two-year period, despite rising rates of myopia and other vision conditions. The state also lacks consistent, publicly available data to evaluate access, provider capacity, or disparities. AB 2756 remedies this deficiency by requiring DHCS to establish comprehensive performance measures, publicly report utilization and access data, and set measurable annual benchmarks to ensure continuous improvement in vision service delivery.

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