

Date of Hearing: June 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 220 (Nguyen) – As Introduced June 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Hepatitis B Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Declares the month of June 2026 as Hepatitis B Awareness Month in California in alignment with national and global awareness activities; and, encourages state agencies, local health jurisdictions, community-based organizations, health care providers, and other stakeholders to observe this month with appropriate educational and outreach activities focused on hepatitis B prevention, testing, treatment, and health equity. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus, and recent modeling estimates indicate that approximately 1.7 million to 1.8 million people in the United States are living with hepatitis B infection, corresponding to a prevalence of about 0.5 to 0.55 percent of the population.
- 2) State-level analyses estimate that California has the largest number of people living with hepatitis B of any state. Approximately 347,100 people are living with hepatitis B infection, and about 86 percent of these infections occur among people who are foreign born.
- 3) The State Department of Public Health (CDPH) estimates that approximately 149,716 to 381,966 California residents are living with chronic hepatitis B, and that more than two-thirds of these infections have not been diagnosed and reported to public health authorities.
- 4) CDPH reports that in 2023 there were 95 acute hepatitis B cases and 10,928 newly reported chronic hepatitis B cases in California. Male Californian adults over 40 years of age identifying as Black or African American are disproportionately affected by acute hepatitis B, while male Californian adults over 50 years of age identifying as Asian American or Pacific Islander are overrepresented among newly reported chronic hepatitis B cases.
- 5) Hepatitis B spreads from person to person via contact with infected blood and body fluids; transmission may occur through perinatal exposure, sexual contact, injection drug use, and other blood exposures.
- 6) CDPH reports that hepatitis B-related mortality in California, though declining, remained 1.7 times higher than the overall United States rate in 2021. More than 70 percent of hepatitis B deaths in California occurred in people younger than 75 years of age, with Asian American and Hispanic or Latino Californians dying on average 18 years earlier than expected due to hepatitis B.
- 7) Vaccination against hepatitis B is safe and highly effective and, when administered as a timely birth dose followed by completion of the vaccine series, has contributed to dramatic declines in pediatric hepatitis B infections nationwide and in California.
- 8) California has implemented and sustained robust prevention efforts, including perinatal hepatitis B prevention programs and newborn vaccination. CDPH reports that since 2017

fewer than five confirmed perinatal hepatitis B cases have been reported annually statewide, which demonstrates the effectiveness of coordinated vaccination and prophylaxis strategies.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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