
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1422 (Durazo) - Medi-Cal: eligibility: immigration status

Version: February 20, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: April 20, 2026

Policy Vote: HEALTH 9 - 2

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: SB 1422 would delete provisions of existing state law that freeze program enrollment in full-scope Medi-Cal coverage for individuals who do not have satisfactory immigration status.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown significant ongoing costs (high hundreds of millions General Fund) to eliminate the existing enrollment freeze for full-scope Medi-Cal coverage for individuals who do not have satisfactory immigration status.
- Costs to counties for administration would be potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates.

Background: The Medi-Cal program, administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), provides health care services to qualified low-income individuals. For individuals who do not have “satisfactory immigration status” under federal Medicaid rules, federal Medicaid funding is available only for pregnancy care services and emergency care services for this population. On January 1, 2024, California became the first state in the nation to provide Medi-Cal coverage to all income-eligible individuals, regardless of immigration status. Subsequently, AB 116 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2025) made changes to Medi-Cal eligibility for full-scope coverage for individuals who do not have satisfactory immigration status. As a result, for individuals who do not have satisfactory immigration status (with limited exceptions), current state law freezes the enrollment into full-scope Medi-Cal coverage of individuals 19 years of age or older starting January 1, 2026, implements \$30 monthly premiums for individuals 19 to 59 years of age starting July 1, 2027, and eliminates dental benefits from full-scope Medi-Cal coverage for individuals 19 years of age or older starting July 1, 2026.

Proposed Law: SB 1422 would delete provisions of existing state law that freeze program enrollment in full-scope Medi-Cal coverage for individuals who do not have satisfactory immigration status.

Related Legislation:

SB 987 (Weber Pierson) would create the California Health Access Fund and require that moneys in the fund be used to ensure that California residents losing health care coverage due to the impacts of H.R. 1 can continue to receive health care services. The bill is currently on the suspense file in this committee.

SB 1202 (Weber Pierson) would require DHCS to establish a dashboard to track enrollment data related to the implementation of H.R. 1. The bill scheduled to be heard April 20, 2026 in this committee.

SB 1252 (Durazo) would require DHCS to take all necessary actions to prevent abrupt loss of health care coverage for individuals, as described, due to federal policy changes, state enrollment freezes, the imposition of premiums, work requirements, or administrative barriers. The bill is currently in the Senate Health Committee.

AB 2161 (Bonta) would include provisions related to H.R. 1's work requirements and eligibility redetermination requirements. The bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2201 (Boerner) would include provisions related to H.R. 1's eligibility redetermination requirements. The bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2208 (Stefani) would include provisions related to eligibility and cost-sharing in response to H.R. 1. The bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2729 (Bonta) would create the Employer Responsibility for Medi-Cal Trust Fund to fund the costs of administering the Medi-Cal program in a manner necessary to prevent loss of or to restore health care coverage, benefits, or access to care following the passage of H.R. 1 and subsequent state budget actions. The bill is currently in the Assembly Health Committee.

Staff Comments: The Governor's budget assumes savings of \$94.7 million (\$83.4 million General Fund and \$11.3 million federal funds) in 2025-26 and \$865.5 million (\$742.5 million General Fund and \$123 million federal funds) in 2026-27 due to freezing new enrollment in Medi-Cal for individuals ages 19 and over who do not have satisfactory immigration status, beginning January 1, 2026.

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