

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 526 (Pérez) – As Amended June 11, 2026

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 12 - 2

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill makes changes to license requirements for clinic corporations and affiliate primary care clinics.

More specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), under specified conditions, approve an application and issue a new license for an affiliate primary care clinic of a parent clinic, without first conducting an initial onsite survey.
- 2) Authorizes a primary care clinic that meets the conditions for licensure as an affiliate clinic, regardless of when it was licensed or whether it was initially licensed using a specified, streamlined affiliate license process, to do either of the following:
 - a) File a change of location (CHOL).
 - b) File a change of ownership (CHOW), provided the clinic corporation acquiring ownership meets the requirements of a parent clinic.
- 3) Requires CDPH to allow a primary care affiliate clinic, regardless of when it was licensed or whether it was initially licensed using the affiliate process, to identify a parent clinic through a simple notice.
- 4) Authorizes a clinic corporation to designate a new parent clinic through a simple notice to CDPH if an affiliate clinic identifies a parent clinic that subsequently closes or surrenders its license.
- 5) Makes minor and clarifying changes to the existing law that establishes the affiliate clinic licensing process.

FISCAL EFFECT:

CDPH estimates costs of approximately \$320,000 per year in fiscal years 2027-28 and 2028-29 to cover two full-time staff positions to process an estimated 50 additional CHOL applications, five additional CHOW applications, and 50 new parent clinic notices, and to update facility licenses (Licensing & Certification Fund).

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California and CPCA Advocates. According to the author:

...Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley [PPPSGV] [plans] to move its current Pasadena health center to a new flagship health center location in Pasadena that will also serve as its headquarters. Establishing a new PPPSGV flagship health center will address growing service demands, while also accounting for continued impacts from the Eaton Fire. Although PPPSGV meets every requirement for its new flagship health center to qualify for the fast-tracked affiliate change-of-location pathway, it cannot pursue this licensing process because the original health center was not licensed under the newer affiliate licensing process...This [bill] would allow long standing and good standing clinic affiliates to be “grandfathered” into the expedited affiliate licensing process to better serve their patients and communities and expand access to quality health care across California.

- 2) **Background.** SB 442 (Ducheny), Chapter 502, Statutes of 2010, streamlined provisions related to clinic affiliate licensure. Under SB 442, a clinic that has held a license for five years with no history of repeated or uncorrected violations may apply for an “affiliate clinic” license to establish a clinic at an additional site. An affiliate license application does not require an initial onsite survey and is a more simplified and streamlined process than applying for a new stand-alone license. Clinics operating under a single corporation utilizing the affiliate licensing option are allowed to consolidate certain administrative functions such as billing and related financial functions, purchasing, and offsite storage and maintenance of certain patient and personnel records. Finally, clinics licensed as affiliate clinics under the SB 442 process are also afforded an expedited process for a CHOL.

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