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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### SB 964 (Smallwood-Cuevas) - Prescription drug coverage: dose adjustments

**Version:** April 6, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 14, 2026

**Policy Vote:** HEALTH 11 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Agnes Lee

**Bill Summary:** SB 964 would provide that a treating provider may request, and must be granted by the health plan or insurer, the authority to adjust the dose or frequency of a drug without prior authorization or subsequent utilization management if specified conditions are met.

\*\*\*\*\* **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** \*\*\*\*\*

The following information is revised to reflect amendments  
adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026

**Fiscal Impact:**

- Unknown ongoing costs, likely low millions, for the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) for state administration (Managed Care Fund).
- Unknown one-time costs, likely minor, for the California Department of Insurance (CDI) for state administration (Insurance Fund).

**Author Amendments:** Require that if the adjusted dose or frequency is for an off-label use, two articles from major peer-reviewed medical journals must have presented data supporting the proposed off-label use as generally safe and effective, as specified.

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