

MCHAP – Bills of Interest

March 4, 2022

These are bills that may be of interest to MCHAP members. Inclusion on this list does not indicate support or endorsement by MCHAP or any other entity or organization.

[AB 58](#)

[Salas D](#)

Pupil health: suicide prevention policies and training.

Location: 1/25/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Would require a local educational agency, on or before June 1, 2024, to review and update its policy on pupil suicide prevention, and revise its training materials, to incorporate best practices identified by the department in the department's model policy. By imposing additional duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

[AB 552](#)

[Quirk-Silva D](#)

Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership Program.

Location: 2/1/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: The School-based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services for Children Act of 1991 authorizes the Director of Health Care Services, in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to award matching grants to local educational agencies to pay the state share of the costs of providing school-based early mental health intervention and prevention services to eligible pupils at schoolsites of eligible pupils, subject to the availability of funding each year. This bill would authorize the Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership Program, which the bill would establish, to provide prevention and early intervention for, and access to, behavioral health services for pupils.

[AB 748](#)

[Carrillo D](#)

Pupil mental health: mental health assistance posters.

Location: 2/1/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Would require, on or before the start of the 2023–24 school year, each schoolsite in a school district, county office of education, or charter school, serving pupils in any of grades 6 to 12, inclusive, to create a poster that identifies approaches and shares resources regarding pupil mental health. The bill would require the poster to be prominently and conspicuously displayed at each schoolsite, as provided. The bill would exempt a school district, county office of education, or charter school from civil liability for any damages alleged to have been caused by, or arisen as a result of, compliance or failure to comply with the above requirements.

AB 1355 **Levine D**

Medi-Cal: Independent Medical Review System.

Location: 1/27/2022-S. RLS.

Summary: Would require the State Department of Health Care Services to establish the Independent Medical Review System (IMRS) for the Medi-Cal program, commencing on January 1, 2023, which generally models specified requirements of the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act. The bill would provide that any Medi-Cal beneficiary appeal involving a disputed health care service is eligible for review under the IMRS if certain requirements are met, and would define "disputed health care service" as any service covered under the Medi-Cal program that has been denied, modified, or delayed by a decision of the department, or by one of its contractors, including, but not limited to, a Medi-Cal managed care plan, that makes a final decision, in whole or in part, due to a finding that the service is not medically necessary. The bill would require information on the IMRS to be displayed in or on specified material, including the "myMedi-Cal: How to Get the Health Care You Need" publication and the department's internet website.

AB 1930 **Arambula D**

Medi-Cal: comprehensive perinatal services.

Location: 2/18/2022- A. Health.

Summary: This bill, during the one-year postpregnancy eligibility period, and as part of comprehensive perinatal services under Medi-Cal, would require the department to cover

additional comprehensive perinatal assessments and individualized care plans and to provide additional visits and units of services in an amount, duration, and scope that are at least proportional to those available on July 27, 2021, during pregnancy and the initial 60-day postpregnancy period in effect on that date. The bill would require the department to collaborate with the State Department of Public Health and a broad stakeholder group to determine the specific number of additional comprehensive perinatal assessments, individualized care plans, visits, and units of services to be covered.

AB 1969 **Gipson D**

Pupil health: peer-to-peer mental health program.

Location: 2/18/2022-A. ED. and HEALTH.

Summary: This bill would require a school, school district, county office of education, charter school, or state special school that develops a peer-to-peer mental health program to provide mental health training, in partnership with community-based organizations, to all pupil mental health advisors who participate in the program. Contingent upon an appropriation for this purpose, the bill would require the State Department of Education to award grants to community-based organizations to support peer-to-peer mental health programs, as provided. The bill would require community-based organizations, as a condition of receiving grant funds, to ensure that at least 40% of the pupils enrolled in the local educational agency they are partnering with are either classified as English learners or are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The bill would require local educational agencies to share information about pupil populations with community-based organizations to help the organizations comply with this condition of receiving grant funds. To the extent that the bill imposes new requirements on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, to submit a report to the Legislature with information on the grant program.

AB 1995 **Arambula D**

Medi-Cal: premiums or contributions.

Location: 2/18/2022- A. Health.

Summary: Existing law requires that Medi-Cal benefits be provided to optional targeted low-income children, as defined, based on a certain income eligibility threshold. Existing law also establishes the Medi-Cal Access Program, which provides health care services to a woman who is pregnant or in her postpartum period and whose household income is between certain thresholds, and to a child under 2 years of age who is delivered by a mother enrolled in the program, as specified. Existing law also establishes a program under which certain employed persons with disabilities are eligible for Medi-Cal benefits based on income and other criteria. Existing law requires the department to exercise the option, available to the state under federal law, to impose specified monthly premiums, based on income level, for the above-described children and employed persons with disabilities. Existing law requires the department to determine schedules for subscriber contribution amounts for persons enrolled in the Medi-Cal Access Program. This bill would eliminate the premiums and subscriber contributions for the above-described populations.

AB 2124 **Cristina Garcia D**

Pupil Support Training Program.

Location: 2/24/2022- A. Ed.

Summary: Existing law requires the governing board of any school district to give diligent care to the health and physical development of pupils and authorizes the governing board of a school district to employ properly certified persons for the work. This bill, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature for its purposes, would establish the Pupil Peer Support Training Program. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop an application process and administration plan for the selection of grant recipients under the program before January 31, 2024. The bill would require the Superintendent to award Pupil Peer Support Training Program grants on a competitive basis to local educational agencies serving pupils in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to establish a peer support training program at schools maintained by these

local educational agencies. The bill would require a grant recipient to ensure that the training and ongoing supervision of pupils serving as peer supports be conducted by school staff holding a pupil personnel services credential.

AB 2259 **Berman D**

Foster youth: substance use disorders.

Location: 3/3/2022- A. HUM. S. and HEALTH.

Summary: This bill would require the State Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the State Department of Health Care Services, to establish a grant program to fund the development and implementation of evidence-based models and promising practices to serve foster youth with substance use disorders who are residing in family-based settings. The bill would require the State Department of Social Services, in the establishment of the grant program, to take specified actions, including, among others, developing an application process and establishing requirements for models and practices funded with a grant. The bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services to provide technical assistance to grantees, counties, and providers to support implementation of evidence-based models and promising practices. The bill would also require the State Department of Social Services to submit progress reports relating to the grant program to the Legislature during annual budget hearings.

AB 2329 **Carrillo D**

Pupil health: mobile vision examinations: schoolsites.

Location: 3/3/2022-A. ED. and JUD.

Summary: This bill would authorize a public school, as defined, to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a nonprofit mobile vision examination provider to provide noninvasive vision examinations consisting of providing vision examinations and eyeglasses to pupils at the schoolsite of the public school. The bill would require vision examinations provided pursuant to the bill's provisions to be supplemental to, and to not replace, the above-referenced vision appraisals or screenings provided pursuant to existing law. The bill would require a public school to provide parents and guardians with an opportunity to opt out of their child receiving these vision care services, as provided.

The bill would require the State Department of Education to develop and post on appropriate department internet websites a model opt-out form for these purposes. The bill would provide that failure to opt out by a parent or guardian would be deemed informed medical consent for the vision examination, as provided. The bill would provide that parents, guardians, or pupils who participate in a vision examination shall be deemed to have waived all claims against a public school and the State of California for any injury, accident, illness, or death that occurred during or by reason of participating in a vision examination, as provided. The bill would provide that parents, guardians, or pupils who participate in a vision examination shall be deemed to have waived all claims against participating licensed health care professionals for provided services without parent or guardian consent. The bill would provide that licensed health care professionals who provide services without parent or guardian consent shall have immunity from civil and criminal liability and immunity from any disciplinary actions from applicable professional licensing boards.

AB 2402 **Rubio D**

Medi-Cal: continuous eligibility.

Location: 3/3/2022: A. Health.

Summary: Under this bill, a child under 5 years of age would be continuously eligible for Medi-Cal, including without regard to income and without an annual review of eligibility, until the child reaches 5 years of age, to the extent that any necessary federal approvals are obtained and federal financial participation is available. The bill would also apply this continuous eligibility to children who are without satisfactory immigration status but who are eligible for Medi-Cal, as specified.

AB-2458 **Weber D**

California Children's Services: reimbursement rates.

Location: 3/3/2022: A. Health.

Summary: Existing law establishes the California Children's Services (CCS) Program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and a designated agency

of each county, to provide medically necessary services for persons under 21 years of age who have any of specified medical conditions and who meet certain financial eligibility requirements. This bill would make legislative findings relating to the need for an increase in the reimbursement rates for physician services provided under the CCS Program. Under the bill, subject to an appropriation, and commencing January 1, 2023, those reimbursement rates would be increased by adding at least 25% to the above-described augmentation percentage relative to the applicable Medi-Cal rates. The bill would make the rate increase applicable only if the services are provided by a physician in a practice in which at least 30% of the practice's pediatric patients are Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The bill would, no later than January 1, 2026, and every 3 years thereafter, require the department to complete a review of those reimbursement rates, including whether the department recommends an increase in the rates, as specified. The bill would require that the reviews contain data disaggregated by rural or urban area, ZIP Code, and satellite clinic providing CCS services. The bill would require the department to submit reports of the reviews and any recommendations to the legislative health committees.

AB 2680

Arambula

Medi-Cal: Community Health Navigator Program.

Location: 2/19/2022- From printer.

Summary: This bill would require the department to create the Community Health Navigator Program to make direct grants to qualified community-based organizations, as defined, to conduct targeted outreach, enrollment, retention, and access activities for Medi-Cal-eligible individuals and families. The bill would specify the basis for issuing a grant, including specified factors in the applicant's service area. The bill would require the department to contract with a private foundation to administer the grant application and allocation process. The bill would require the department to contract with specified providers to furnish training and technical assistance to grant recipients. The bill would also require the department to coordinate and partner with Covered California and counties that elect to participate, on an approach for outreach, enrollment, retention, and access

activities for marketing to eligible individuals, including development of a joint application tracker system to allow specified persons and entities to track application and referrals between commercial and Medi-Cal enrollment progress and facilitation of quarterly meetings on enrollment and access barriers and solutions, among other requirements.

SB 293

Limón D

Medi-Cal specialty mental health services.

Location: 7/7/2021- A. Appropriations.

Summary: Current law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services, including specialty mental health services, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services for an individual under 21 years of age. With respect to specialty mental health services provided under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Program, on or after January 1, 2022, this bill would require the department to develop standard forms, including intake and assessment forms, relating to medical necessity criteria, mandatory screening and transition of care tools, and documentation requirements pursuant to specified terms and conditions, and, for purposes of implementing these provisions, would require the department to consult with representatives of identified organizations, including the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California.

SB 387

Portantino D

Pupil health: school employee and pupil training: youth mental and behavioral health.

Location: 1/24/2022-A. Desk.

Summary: This bill, subject to an appropriation, requires a local educational agency (LEA), on or before January 1, 2025, to certify to the California Department of Education (CDE) that 75 percent of its classified employees and 75 percent of its certificated employees who have direct contact with pupils at each school have received specified youth behavioral health

training.

SB 855

Newman D

Childhood Drowning Data Collection Pilot Program.

Location: 1/26/2022-S. HEALTH.

Summary: Would establish the Childhood Drowning Data Collection Pilot Program, to be administered by the department, to collect detailed data on childhood fatal and nonfatal drownings in California, as specified. The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2024, to seek to collaborate with at least 5 but no more than 10 county child death review teams or other local agencies, as specified. The bill would require the department to submit various reports to the appropriate legislative policy committees, as specified. The bill would require the department, based on those reports, to develop a California Water Safety Action Plan for Children and a standardized form for counties to use in reporting drownings statistics. The bill would require the department to seek to fund this program through already existing specified funds, to the extent that use of existing funding does not jeopardize federal funding. The bill would also authorize counties to seek reimbursement from the department from specified funds, to the extent that reimbursement does not jeopardize federal funding. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2029.

SB 866

Wiener D

Minors: vaccine consent.

Location: 2/23/2022-S. JUD.

Summary: Would authorize a minor 12 years of age or older to consent to vaccines that meet specified federal agency criteria. The bill would authorize a vaccine provider, as defined, to administer a vaccine pursuant to the bill, but would not authorize the vaccine provider to provide any service that is otherwise outside the vaccine provider's scope of practice.

SB 871

Pan D

Public health: immunizations.

Location: 2/23/2022-S. HEALTH, ED.

Summary: Existing law prohibits the governing authority of a school or other institution from unconditionally admitting any person as a pupil of any public or private elementary or secondary school, childcare center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, unless prior to their admission to that institution they have been fully immunized against various diseases, including measles, mumps, pertussis, hepatitis B, and any other disease deemed appropriate by the State Department of Public Health, as specified. Existing law authorizes an exemption from those provisions for medical reasons. Under existing law, notwithstanding the above-described prohibition, full immunization against hepatitis B is not a condition by which the governing authority admits or advances a pupil to the 7th grade level of a public or private elementary or secondary school. This bill would remove the above-described exception relating to hepatitis B. The bill would additionally prohibit the governing authority of a school or other institution from unconditionally admitting any person as a pupil of any public or private elementary or secondary school, childcare center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, unless prior to their admission to that institution they have been fully immunized against COVID-19. To the extent that the bill would create new duties for school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. For purposes of the additional immunizations deemed appropriate by the department, and that would be mandated before a pupil's first admission to the institution, existing law requires that exemptions be allowed for both medical reasons and personal beliefs. This bill would repeal that provision, thereby removing the personal belief exemption from any additional immunization requirements deemed appropriate by the department.

SB 906

Portantino D

School safety: mass casualty threats: firearm disclosure.

Location: 2/9/2022-S. ED.

Summary: Would require, on or before January 1, 2023, the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Justice, to develop model content for use by local educational agencies related to a threat or perceived

threat of an incident of mass casualties at a school. Using the model content, the bill would require local educational agencies to require the parents or guardians of a pupil to disclose whether any firearms are located at the home of the pupil and to answer questions about the ownership, storage, and accessibility by the pupil of the firearms. The bill would require local educational agencies to include information related to the safe storage of firearms in the annual notification provided to the parents or guardians of a pupil. If a school official is alerted to or observes any threat or perceived threat of an incident of mass casualties at a school, the bill would require a report of the threat or perceived threat to be immediately made to law enforcement and the Department of Justice. The bill would require a school or local educational agency, in consultation with law enforcement, to conduct immediately an investigation and threat assessment, as specified.

SB 923

Wiener D

Gender-affirming care.

Location: 2/16/2022-S. HEALTH

Summary: Current law establishes the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund, administered by the Office of Health Equity within the State Department of Public Health, for the purpose of grant funding focused on coordinating trans-inclusive health care for individuals who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, or intersex (TGI). This bill would require a Medi-Cal managed care plan, a PACE organization, a health care service plan, or a health insurer, as specified, to require its staff and contracted providers to complete evidence-based cultural humility training for the purpose of providing trans-inclusive health care, as defined, for individuals who identify as TGI. The bill would specify the required components of the training and would make use of any training curricula subject to approval by the respective departments. The bill would require an individual to complete a refresher course if a complaint has been filed against that individual for not providing trans-inclusive health care, or on a more frequent basis if deemed necessary.

SB 1019

Gonzalez D

Medi-Cal managed care plans: mental health benefits.

Location: 2/23/2022- S. Health.

Summary: This bill would require a Medi-Cal managed care plan to conduct annual outreach and education to its enrollees regarding the mental health benefits that are covered by the plan, and to also develop annual outreach and education to inform primary care physicians regarding those mental health benefits. The bill would require that the outreach and education efforts be informed by stakeholder engagement and the plan's Population Needs Assessment, as specified, and that the efforts meet cultural and linguistic appropriateness standards and incorporate best practices in stigma reduction. The bill would require the department to review and approve annual outreach and education efforts, and to consult with stakeholders to develop the standards for the review and approval. The bill would require the department to annually assess enrollee experience with mental health benefits covered by Medi-Cal managed care plans. The bill would require the department, by January 1, 2024, to develop survey tools and methodologies relating to the assessment of consumer experience, including best practice methods for data collection and reporting, as specified. The bill would require the department to publish annual reports on its internet website on consumer experience with mental health benefits covered by Medi-Cal managed care plans. The bill would require the reports to include plan-by-plan data, provide granularity for subpopulations, address inequities based on key demographic factors, and provide recommendations.

SB 1302 **Portantino D**

Pupil health: pupil wellness centers: grant program.

Location: 3/2/2022- S. Ed.

Summary: This bill would appropriate \$1,000,000,000 from an unspecified fund to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide annual grants of up to \$250,000 each to certain local educational agencies serving high school pupils to establish or improve pupil wellness centers to provide comprehensive medical and behavioral health services, as provided. The bill would require grant funds to be used for activities that will help pupils to be healthy in body, mind, and spirit in order to learn successfully, and would authorize grant funds to be used for

personnel to support pupil health, as provided. The bill would require the State Department of Education to identify criteria for the evaluation of applicants and the awarding of grants.

SB 1479 **Pan D**

COVID-19 testing in schools: COVID-19 testing plans.

Location: 2/18/2022- S. RLS.

Summary: This bill would, contingent on an appropriation, require the department to continue administering specified school district, county office of education, and charter school COVID-19 testing programs that are currently federally funded, and would require appropriated funds to be used for testing programs for teachers, staff, and pupils to help schools reopen and keep schools operating safely for in-person learning. The bill would also require those funds to be used to expand the department's contagious, infectious, or communicable disease testing and other public health mitigation efforts to include prekindergarten, onsite after school programs, and childcare centers. This bill would require each school district, county office of education, and charter school to create a COVID-19 testing plan and designate one staff member to report information on its COVID-19 testing program to the department. The bill would require that all COVID-19 testing data be in a format that facilitates a simple process by which parents and local educational agencies may report data to the department. By imposing new obligations on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would also authorize each school within a school district to name a staff member to lead its COVID-19 testing program. The bill would require the department to determine which COVID-19 tests are appropriate for the testing program.