

California



California - AB 1880

Sponsor: Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (D)

Actions: 02/18/2022 Referred to the Assembly Health Committee
02/08/2022 Introduced

Summary: Summary for 2/8/2022 Version

This measure requires insurers to review utilization review denials and track step-therapy exemption requests.

This measure relates to utilization review and step-therapy protocols.

This measure removes language that deems prior authorization or step-therapy exception requests as approved for the duration of prescriptions if a health care service plans or other related entities fail to notify prescribing providers of coverage determined within prescribed time periods after receiving said requests. The measure requires healthcare service plans or health insurers utilization management processes to ensure that appeals of exception request denials are reviewed by clinical peers of health care providers or prescribing providers.

This measure requires health care service plans and health insurers to require step therapy or prior authorization to maintain specified information to include the number of step therapy exception requests and prior authorization requests received by the plan or insurer, and, upon request, to provide the information in a de-identified format to the department or commissioner, as appropriate.

The measure creates a state-mandated step therapy program by making a violation of certain requirements by a health care service plan a crime and removes requirements for reimbursement for costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district by the state.

This measure does not provide an effective date.

Bill Links [2/8/2022 Version](#)



California - AB 1954

Sponsor: Assemblymember Bill Quirk (D)

Actions: 02/10/2022 Introduced

Summary: Summary of 2/10/2022 Version

This measure removes the reimbursement requirement for local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state.

This measure is applicable to physicians.

Under this measure a physician and surgeon may not deny treatment or medication to a qualified patient based solely on a positive drug screen for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or report of medical cannabis use, except to the extent that the qualified patient's use of medical cannabis has been found by a physician and surgeon, following a case-by-case evaluation of the patient, to be medically significant to the treatment or medication.

This measure would also prohibit a physician and surgeon from being punished, or denied any right or privilege, for having administered treatment or medication to a qualified patient within the measure's requirement. Existing law requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for costs mandated by the state. This measure will remove the reimbursement requirements.

This measure will take effect on January 1 after it is enacted.

Bill Links [2/10/2022 Version](#)