

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Week of July 7, 2025

State Issues	
Key Legislation and Deadlines	<p>Next Friday (July 18) is the deadline for bills to pass the policy committee in the second house. Bills that do not pass by next week will be dead for the year. Upon adjournment next Friday, the Legislature will break for its Summer Recess until August 18. The following are key bills of interest to the health ministry.</p> <p>SB 403 (Blakespear), which seeks to eliminate the sunset date for the End of Life Option Act passed out of the Assembly Health Committee this week. The bill was approved on a 13-2-1 vote, with the Republicans voting no or not voting. The bill is double referred and will be heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee next week.</p> <p>AB 40 (Bonta) would have clarified that all hospitals must follow EMTALA and provide emergency health care services, including reproductive health services. This week, the bill was moved to the Senate inactive file at the request of Senator Menjivar without any commentary. While unlikely, the bill could come off the inactive file this session, so we will continue to monitor it closely.</p> <p>SB 632 (Arreguin) has been made a 2-year bill. The bill would have greatly expanded the list of health care professionals who would have access to presumptive eligibility for workers compensation claims. Under the bill, to claim workers compensation, health care workers would not have to prove their illnesses were acquired at work for a multitude of conditions, including asthma and cancer. The bill is sponsored by the California Nurses Association, California Federation of Labor Unions and United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals and opposed by the Alliance and others in the hospital community.</p> <p>Finally, SB 41 (Weiner) passed the Assembly Health Committee. This is the measure that seeks to reform how Pharmacy Benefit Managers operate in the state. According to the author, this bill reins in the worst abuses by PBMs, insurance-industry middlemen who are driving up the price of prescription medication for Californians. This bill will provide transparency on prescription drug prices and improve our health care system by ensuring that PBMs are appropriately regulated. The measure is sponsored by the California Pharmacists Association, California Chronic Care Coalition, Los Angeles LGBT Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.</p> <p>Next week's hearings should have substantive agendas and be filled with the most contentious of the bills.</p>
New Republican Assembly Leader Selected	<p>This week, the Assembly Republican Caucus unanimously selected Heath Flora, R-Ripon, as their new leader. Current leader, Assembly Member James Gallagher (R-Yuba City), will be terming out in 2026. Gallagher has led the caucus since 2022 and will officially step down on September 16.</p>

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<p>New Republican Assembly Leader Selected <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>“Stepping aside was my decision, and I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished,” Gallagher said. The timing allows for Gallagher to finish his work this session, and a transfer period for Flora. The Republicans were keen on sharing that the election was drama-free and there will be a smooth transition – trying to show contrast with the Democratic caucus elections for Speaker which are always full of intrigue.</p> <p>Assembly Member Flora has been in office for nearly 9 years. Before his run for the Assembly, he served for over 15 years as a volunteer fire fighter and is now the owner of a business that sells specialized farm equipment. Flora holds a number of leadership positions in the Assembly, including Vice Chair for Assembly Budget Committee, Business and Professions and Labor and Employment. He is also a member of the Health Committee, Natural Resources and Rules. “Californians deserve a Republican Caucus that fights hard, communicates clearly, and never backs down,” Flora said in a statement. “I’m ready to lead that fight.”</p>
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