



California Opioid Legislation Summary

2019 - 2020 Legislative Session

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Medication-Assisted Treatment Access

[AB 80](#)

Summary: Before AB 80, Drug Medi-Cal (DMC), the Medi-Cal program covering substance use disorder treatment in an overwhelming majority of counties, could only cover methadone and naltrexone for use in medication-assisted treatment (MAT). AB 80 extends DMC MAT coverage to include buprenorphine, a comparably effective alternative to methadone.

Author: Committee on Budget

Status: Chaptered

[AB 319](#)

Summary: Would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to create reimbursement rates and rate billing codes for use by licensed narcotic treatment programs providing medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

Author: Blanca Rubio (D-eastern San Gabriel Valley)

Status: Died in committee

[AB 882](#)

Summary: would prohibit an employer from discharging an employee for being in MAT

Author: McCarty (D-Sacramento)

Status: Assembly Labor (first committee)

AJ position: SUPPORT

[AB 890](#) – referred to Assembly Business & Professions

Summary: would allow nurse practitioners to prescribe controlled substances

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alcoholjustice.org

Author: Wood (D-Eureka)
AJ position: SUPPORT

AB 1304

Summary: Establishes the California medically assisted treatment (MAT) Re-Entry Incentive Program which would make a person on parole, except as specified, eligible for a reduction in the period of parole if the person successfully participates in a substance abuse treatment program, as specified, including medication-assisted treatment.

Author: Waldron (R-Escondido)

Status: Chaptered; Waldron website says that, as of September 2020, provisions of the Governor's Budget Plan were aligned with AB 1304. Author working with the Governor's Office on an expedited timeline, optimistic that the program could become operative shortly.

AB 1327

Summary: would require narcotic treatment programs to provide safe storage products, as defined, to every patient who is eligible to take medication off the premises

Author: Petrie-Norris (D-Laguna Beach)

Status: Senate Health

AB 1557

Summary: would require DHCS to fund a MAT-in-jail pilot program in San Francisco

Author: Chiu (D-San Francisco)

Status: Assembly Appropriations suspense

AJ position: SUPPORT

SB 11

Summary: Requires a health care service plan or insurer that provides prescription drug benefits for the treatment of substance use disorders must place all prescription medications for the treatment of substance use disorders on the lowest tier of the drug formulary developed and maintained by the health care service plan

Author: Beall (D-Campbell)

Status: Senate Appropriations suspense

AJ position: SUPPORT

SB 445

Summary: Would have required Department of Health Care Services to convene an expert panel as part of an existing advisory body or workgroup, on or before January 1, 2021, to advise DHCS solely on the development of youth substance use disorder (SUD) treatment quality standards, as specified.

Author: Portantino (D- San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys)

Status: Vetoed; referred to Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which conducted a one-time Children's Behavioral Health Listening Session for Future Planning and Discussions at its July 2020 meeting.

SB 855

Summary: This bill extends California's mental health parity law to cover SUD treatment under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions; establishes new requirements for medically necessary care determinations and utilization review; and bans discretionary clauses in health plan contracts.

Author: Wiener (D-San Francisco)

Status: Chaptered; Department of Managed Health Care is moving forward with implementation: effective 1/1/21, plans must use evidence-based American Society of Addiction Medicine guidelines for SUD criteria; plans are also required to include SUD treatment facilities in their networks or to cover out-of-network services.

Rehab Access

AB 389

Summary: Would require DHCS to support SUD peer navigators for Emergency Departments.

Author: Arambula (D-Fresno)

Status: Died, but state budget included \$20 million to support grants for substance use navigators (SUNs) for emergency department pilot projects. SUNs are care coordinators helping those treated for SUD in emergency departments to transition into SUD treatment. Each participating E.D. received a \$100,000 grant.

AJ position: SUPPORT

AB 1468

Summary: would charge opioid makers and distributors to help fund opioid use disorder prevention and treatment programs

Author: McCarty (D-Sacramento)

AJ position: STRONG SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Floor; two-thirds vote required

SB 10

Summary: would establish behavioral health services and/ or SUD treatment peer support specialist certification program; specialists could be eligible for Medi-Cal funding

Author: Beall (D-Campbell)

AJ position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Appropriations

[SB 42](#)

Summary: would provide a person with the right to request that, upon his or her release from a county jail, he or she be assisted in entering a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program; would also require a person who is released from jail after being incarcerated for more than 30 days to be provided with at least 3 days' supply of any necessary medication

Author: Skinner (D-Berkeley)

AJ position: STRONG SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Appropriations

[SB 803](#)

Summary: Would establish a peer support specialist certification program under DHCS.

Author: Beall (D-Campbell)

Status: Chaptered

Special Populations

[AB 1058](#)

Summary: would declare the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to establish a pilot program in several counties to support the integration of specialty mental health services and substance use disorder treatment provided under the Medi-Cal program

Author: Salas (D-Bakersfield)

Status: Senate Appropriations suspense

[AB 1304](#)

Summary: provides a sentence-reduction program for qualified parolees who voluntarily receive at least six months of medication-assisted treatment.

Author: Waldron (R- Escondido)

Status: In committee

AJ Position: *Support.* A similar model in Kentucky has proven effective in reducing reincarceration rates, as well as opioid and alcohol use.

[SB 445](#)

Summary: would require DHCS to convene an expert panel as part of an existing advisory

body or workgroup, on or before January 1, 2021, to advise DHCS solely on the development of youth substance use disorder (SUD) treatment quality standards, as specified.

Author: Portantino (D- San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys)

Status: Vetoed; policy advocates referred to Behavioral Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Naloxone Access

[AB 714](#)

Summary: exempts inpatient facilities from requirement to prescribe naloxone concurrent with certain opioid prescriptions

Author: Wood (D-Eureka)

Status: Chaptered

Safe Injection

[AB 362](#)

Summary: Authorize San Francisco to operate safe injection site for users of dangerous drugs. While this is opposed by the current federal administration, it is an important step forward in harm reduction.

Author: Eggman (D-Stockton)

AJ position: STRONG SUPPORT

Status: Died in 2019-20 session; reintroduced for 2021-22 session as SB 57 (2021)

[SB 689](#)

Summary: Would require localities to opt-in via ordinance or resolution before the California Department of Public Health can authorize a needle exchange in that area.

Author: Moorlach (R-Orange County)

AJ position: OPPOSE

CURES

[AB 528](#)

Summary: would require a pharmacy to report to CURES no more than one working day after

dispensing a controlled substance; would require controlled substance prescriber to consult the CURES to review the patient's controlled substance history at least once every 6 months

Author: Low (D-Cupertino)

AJ position: SUPPORT

Status: Chaptered

Dual Diagnosis

[AB 1058](#)

Summary: Would require DHCS to engage in a stakeholder process to develop recommendations for addressing barriers to the delivery of integrated behavioral health services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with co-occurring SUD and behavioral health conditions.

Author: Salas (D-Bakersfield)

Status: Senate Appropriations

Recovery & Treatment Facilities

[AB 549](#)

Summary: Alcoholism and drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities spot bill

Author: Diep (R-Huntington Beach)

[AB 615](#)

Summary: Would make giving or receiving remuneration or anything of value for the referral of a person who is seeking alcoholism or drug misuse recovery and treatment services a crime

Author: Brough (R-San Juan Capistrano)

Status: Assembly Public Safety

[AB 682](#)

Summary: Would require the State Department of Public Health, to solicit a grant to develop a database to display information about the availability of beds in licensed residential alcoholism or drug misuse recovery or treatment facilities

Author: Eggman (D-Stockton)

Status: Assembly Appropriations Suspense
AJ position: SUPPORT

[AB 704](#)

Summary: Would require criminal record review of staff in an alcoholism or drug misuse recovery or treatment facility

Author: Patterson (R-Fresno)

Status: Assembly Appropriations Suspense

[AB 920](#)

Summary: Requires licensure of all outpatient alcoholism or drug misuse recovery or treatment programs receiving Drug Medi-Cal-Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) funds. Licensure standards shall be the equivalent of American Society of Addiction Medicine. It is likely that all Medi-Cal payments for substance use disorder treatment will meet DMC-ODS standards after June, 2020

Author: Petrie-Norris (D-Laguna Beach)

Status: Vetoed in 2019-20 session; reintroduced for 2021-22 session as AB 77 (2021)

[AB 940](#)

Summary: Prohibits a recovery residence from engaging in paying a third party to refer a patient

Author: Melendez (R-Murrieta)

Status: Assembly Health (first committee)

[SB 325](#)

Summary: Would require SUD treatment outpatient facilities to be licensed by DHCS, unless already included in Drug Medi-Cal network; supported by CA Society of Addiction Medicine.

Author: Hill (D-Silicon Valley)

Status: Assembly Business & Professions

[SB 486](#)

Summary: Alcoholism and drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities spot bill

Author: Bates (R-Laguna Niguel)

Status: Senate Health (first committee)

[SB 589](#)

Summary: Would empower DHCS to prohibit an operator of a licensed alcoholism or drug misuse recovery or treatment facility from any form of advertising or marketing services from making a false or misleading statement about the entity's products, goods, services, or geographical locations

Author: Bates (R-Laguna Niguel)

Status: Vetoed; Governor claims DHCS has no jurisdiction over such licensed facilities

[AB 1779](#)

Summary: Would establish, and require the department to adopt and implement, minimum standards for counties seeking to use state funding to offer recovery residences providing an alcohol- and drug-free environment for persons recovering from alcoholism or drug misuse

Author: Daly (D-Anaheim)

Status: Senate Appropriations Suspense

Opioid Prescribing

[AB 888](#)

Summary: Extends the requirement for a prescriber to discuss the risks associated with opioids to any adult patients before issuing the first prescription in a single course of treatment for a controlled substance containing an opioid.

Author: Low (D-Silicon Valley)

Status: Senate Business & Professions; double referral (Business & Professions, Health)

Involuntary Treatment

[SB 590](#)

Summary: Would authorize a parent, legal guardian, or spouse of a person to file a petition in the court for purposes of involuntary treatment of the person, if that person suffers from a substance use disorder.

Author: Stone (R-Murrieta)

Status: Assembly Appropriations

AJ Position: OPPOSE

Other

AB 551

Summary: Details the types of drugs (including cannabis, fentanyl, methamphetamine) that a coroner must screen a deceased driver for (in addition to alcohol). The chemical results are to be reported monthly to the California Highway Patrol.

Author(s): Assembly Member William Brough (R-Dana Point)

Status: Vetoed by Governor

AJ Position: Support –Understanding how drugs and alcohol impair driving is necessary for crafting ever better policy for addressing the very serious issue of impaired drivers on our roadways