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DPH-SAPC Legislative Report for the Behavioral Health Commission

- December 4, 2025 -

This report includes updates on Federal budget, legislation, and a list of bills for the 2025-26 State legislative session. The Department will continue identifying and analyzing legislation throughout the session to develop our priority list of bills that may impact our operations, and the public substance use disorder system.

Federal

- **H.R. 2483 - SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025**
12/1/25 - Signed by the President.
HR 2483 reauthorizes and revises the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs that address substance use disorders, overdoses and mental health. This bill's reauthorization of SUD prevention, treatment, recovery programs and grants would strengthen the SUD system through 2030, increasing appropriations across several areas from the authorization that ended in 2023. Additionally, this bill would provide greater specification to improve the operationalization of reauthorized programs for SUD-affected populations, expand prevention efforts, address overdose risk factors, and expand the behavioral health workforce.
- **H.R. 5371 - Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026**
11/12/25 - Signed by the President.
HR 5371 ended the government shutdown by providing FY2026 continuing appropriations for most federal agencies through January 30, 2026, and providing appropriations through the end of FY2026 for agriculture, military construction and veterans affairs, and legislative branch programs. It also extends various expiring public health programs and authorities.

Additionally, included in the bill is a provision that prohibits the unregulated sale of intoxicating hemp-based products containing more than 0.4 milligrams of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) per container, closing a loophole made by the 2018 Farm Bill that legalized hemp-based products.

- **H.R. 6104 – Dark Web Interdiction Act of 2025**

11/18/25 - Introduced.

HR 6104 prohibits the delivery or distribution of controlled substances (i.e. opioids) by means of the dark web, establishes a 2-level sentencing increase for violations, and establishes the Joint Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement Task Force.

State

- **AB 37 Workforce development: mental health service providers: homelessness (Elhawary)**

- AB 37 requires the California Workforce Development Board to study how to expand the workforce of mental health service providers who provide services to homeless persons. Currently, the Board is responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce investment system and the alignment of the education and workforce investment systems to the needs of the 21st century economy and workforce. This bill would assign a new project for the Board to oversee.

This two-year bill is currently in Assembly Labor Committee and eligible to be taken up in January 2026.

DPH Analysis: It is essential that the substance use disorder (SUD) workforce is included in the expansion study in addition to the mental health workforce. Increasing the availability of mental health and SUD services through for people experiencing homelessness through an extensive workforce would be a benefit to the behavioral health system in LA County.

DPH Position: Watch

County Position: No position taken

CBHDA Position: Watch

- **AB 1205 Mental health services: assisted outpatient treatment (Muratsuchi)** - AB 1205 makes technical, non-substantive changes to existing statute regarding assisted outpatient treatment for court-ordered individuals meeting certain conditions.

This is a two-year bill currently on the Assembly Floor and may be taken up again in January 2026.

DPH Analysis: Although this bill is currently a spot bill, with only minor amendments proposed, it has potential for impacts to protective actions taken for individuals with mental illnesses and potential substance use disorders in the court system.

DPH Position: Watch

County Position: No position taken

CBHDA Position: No position taken

- **SB 35 Alcohol and drug programs (Umberg)** - SB 35 would establish a timeline for the Department of Health Care Services DHCS to initiate an investigation within 10 days of receiving an allegation and complete the investigation within 60 days of the initiation of the investigation for adult alcohol and drug (AOD) recovery or treatment facilities that are alleged to be operating without a current valid license.

This bill was held in committee under submission so it will not be moving forward in this legislative cycle. However, it has the potential become a two-year bill, in which it would be eligible to enter the next cycle beginning in January 2026.

DPH Analysis: The provision of adding additional site visits is problematic as it will come in conflict with the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) (Article 2 Housing Discrimination commencing with GOV § 12955) and stigmatizes recovery residences as a type of housing. There have not been substantial findings of AOD licensees risking their licenses over lower level of care environments. The state is currently struggling with a shortage of providers for SUD treatment, and this additional oversight may deter instead of growing the number of providers. This type of oversight extrapolated from a violation by a separate entity does not exist for healthcare facilities or housing.

DPH Position: Watch

County Position: No position taken

CBHDA Position: Watch

- **SB 38 Second Chance Program (Umberg)** - SB 38 modifies the Second Chance Program by allowing proposals offering mental health or behavioral health services, including drug court programs. This change aims to support better treatment options for people with mental health and substance use issues within the criminal justice system.

This bill was held in committee under submission so it will not be moving forward in this legislative cycle. However, it has the potential become a two-year bill, in which it would be eligible to enter the next cycle beginning in January 2026.

DPH Analysis: As currently written, the bill is formatted as a grant and is therefore permissive with limited impacts to County SUD treatment and prevention operations or the provider network. The changes to current law would direct the Board of State and

Community Corrections, which administers the grant, to prioritize proposals that utilize a drug court or collaborative court model.

DPH Position: Watch

County Position: No position taken

CBHDA Position: Watch

- **SB 329 Alcohol and drug recovery or treatment facilities: investigations (Blakespear & Umberg)** - SB 329 mandates that DHCS assign and complete investigations into complaints regarding alcohol and drug recovery or treatment facilities within specified time frames. Complaints will be assigned to an analyst within 10 days, and investigations must be completed within 60 days.

This bill's hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee was postponed and will not be moving forward in this legislative cycle. However, it has the potential become a two-year bill, in which it would be eligible to enter the next cycle beginning in January 2026.

DPH Analysis: Complaints are often sent to DHCS before DHCS forwards complaints to DPH-SAPC. This bill would give DHCS greater responsibility in responding to complaints. At this stage, it is unclear whether DHCS has the capacity to handle these investigations fully or if the intention is to delegate work to counties.

DPH Position: Watch

County Position: No position taken yet.

CBHDA Position: Watch