



## Implementing & Improving Health Reform: 2012 Legislation

Below is a list of key health bills focused on the subject of implementing and improving upon the federal Affordable Care Act in California. This list will be updated at [www.health-access.org](http://www.health-access.org). Please visit our website and read our daily blog at [blog.health-access.org](http://blog.health-access.org).

### ▶ Consumer Protections and Insurer Oversight

#### Reforming the Insurance Market to Benefit Consumers

<b>AB 1453</b> Monning <b>SB 951</b> Hernandez	<b>ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS:</b> Protects consumers from underinsurance and junk insurance by requiring that health plans and health insurers cover a set of minimum essential health benefits. The bills set the minimum floor for benefits to be equivalent to the Kaiser small group HMO.	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
<b>AB 1461</b> Monning <b>SB 961</b> Hernandez	<b>REFORMING THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET:</b> Prevents insurers from denying or discriminating for pre-existing conditions, and otherwise conforms and phases-in new insurance market rules for individuals who purchase insurance on their own. Limits different premiums based on age to 3:1.	<i>Vetoed by Governor</i>
<b>AB 1083</b> Monning	<b>REFORMING THE SMALL GROUP MARKET:</b> Conforms and phases-in new insurance market rules for small businesses, particularly so that small employers don't get additional premium spikes based on the health of their workforce. (Sponsored by Health Access California and Small Business Majority.)	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
<b>AB 1761</b> Speaker Perez	<b>DECEPTIVE MARKETING:</b> Prohibits any individual or entity from falsely representing themselves as the California Health Benefits Exchange.	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
<b>SB 1410</b> Hernandez	<b>INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW:</b> Improves the process by which consumers appeal denial of care decisions by making the process more robust and transparent. Also requires collection of race, ethnicity, and language data to help determine whether health equity issues need to be addressed.	<i>Signed by Governor</i>

### ▶ Ensuring Californians Get the Coverage They Need

#### Medi-Cal Expansion and Simplification

<b>AB 1580</b> Bonilla	<b>STREAMLINING ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT:</b> A follow-up to AB1296 (Bonilla) which was signed into law last year to streamline eligibility and enrollment processes. (Sponsored by Western Center on Law and Poverty.)	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
<b>AB 1526</b> Monning	<b>HIGH RISK POOL:</b> Improves the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP) by eliminating annual and lifetime caps so that individuals with pre-existing conditions will be protected if they are in need of extremely costly care, and brings the program in line with PCIP, the federally funded high risk pool.	<i>Signed by Governor</i>

#### Seamless, Automatic, Easy Enrollment

<b>AB 792</b> Bonilla	<b>NOTICE OF COVERAGE OPTIONS DURING LIFE CHANGES:</b> Requires California consumers are provided information about their coverage options under the Exchange upon filing for job change, divorce, separation, adoption, or other life changes. (Sponsored by Health Access California.)	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
<b>SB 970</b> DeLeon	<b>HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION OF ENROLLMENT WITH HUMAN SERVICES:</b> Helps individuals applying for public programs apply through an integrated no wrong door approach, whether applicants are interested in social services or health programs. (Sponsored by WCLP)	<i>Vetoed by Governor</i>
<b>AB 174</b> Monning	<b>SYSTEMS INTEGRATION:</b> Establishes funding for the Office of System Integration to establish information sharing between the Franchise Tax Board and the Employment Development Department to specified health care agencies and county departments and agencies to verify applicant eligibility for state health care programs as well as claims data information.	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
<b>AB 1869</b> Speaker Perez	<b>HELP FOR VETERANS:</b> Requires that in addition to programs like Medicare and Medi-Cal, the Office of the Patient Advocate also coordinate with veterans programs.	<i>Signed by Governor</i>

### ▶ Prevention

#### Promoting Health

<b>AB 441</b> Monning	<b>ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:</b> Requires that transportation planning include health criteria in order to foster healthier communities. (Sponsored by CPEHN.)	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
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This factsheet was prepared by Health Access, a statewide coalition of consumer, labor, ethnic, senior, faith, and other organizations that has been dedicated to achieving quality, affordable health care for all Californians for 25 years. Please visit our website and read our daily blog at:

[www.health-access.org](http://www.health-access.org)