

Introduced by Senator RubioFebruary 20, 2026

An act to add Section 1367.58 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 10123.78 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1309, as introduced, Rubio. Health care coverage: lung cancer.

Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care, and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Existing law provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. Existing law requires a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy to provide coverage for all generally medically accepted cancer screening tests.

This bill would require a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, that provides coverage for hospital, medical, or surgical expenses to provide coverage for followup screening or diagnostic services for lung cancer, as specified. The bill would prohibit a contract or policy from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, deductible, or any other form of cost sharing for this coverage. Because a willful violation of these provisions by a health care service plan would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1367.58 is added to the Health and Safety
2 Code, to read:

3 1367.58. (a) A health care service plan contract issued,
4 amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2027, that provides
5 coverage for hospital, medical, or surgical expenses shall provide
6 coverage for followup screening or diagnostic services for lung
7 cancer recommended by a health care provider acting within the
8 scope of their practice.

9 (b) Coverage required pursuant to this section shall not be
10 subject to copayment, coinsurance, deductible, or any other form
11 of cost sharing.

12 (c) For purposes of this section, “followup screening or
13 diagnostic services for lung cancer” means a service provided after
14 an initial abnormal or indeterminate test result, including a
15 diagnostic computed tomography scan, positron emission
16 tomography/computed tomography scan, tissue sampling, biopsy,
17 bronchoscopy, pathology, and surgical consultation.

18 SEC. 2. Section 10123.78 is added to the Insurance Code, to
19 read:

20 10123.78. (a) A health insurance policy issued, amended, or
21 renewed on or after January 1, 2027, that provides coverage for
22 hospital, medical, or surgical expenses shall provide coverage for
23 followup screening or diagnostic services for lung cancer
24 recommended by a health care provider acting within the scope
25 of their practice.

26 (b) Coverage required pursuant to this section shall not be
27 subject to copayment, coinsurance, deductible, or any other form
28 of cost sharing.

29 (c) For purposes of this section, “followup screening or
30 diagnostic services for lung cancer” means a service provided after
31 an initial abnormal or indeterminate test result, including a
32 diagnostic computed tomography scan, positron emission
33 tomography/computed tomography scan, tissue sampling, biopsy,
34 bronchoscopy, pathology, and surgical consultation.

1 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
2 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
3 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
4 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
5 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
6 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
7 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
8 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
9 Constitution.

O