
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1508

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL RECORDS.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes to the fees charged for patient health records. Principally, it:

1. replaces current law's fee of 65 cents per page with fees that vary based on who requests the records, the types of records, and the number of pages;
2. requires the fees, starting January 1, 2026, to be annually adjusted for inflation based on changes to the consumer price index for urban consumers, and the Department of Public Health to annually post the adjusted fees on its website;
3. updates terminology by replacing patients' "authorized representatives" with "personal representatives" for purposes of health records requests to align with federal regulations; and
4. adds physician assistants to the statutory definition of "provider" for purposes of patient records requests made to health care institutions.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

RECORDS REQUESTS

Under current law, patients (or their attorneys or authorized representatives) can generally get copies of their health records by asking a provider or health care institution (e.g., hospital, outpatient clinic, or long-term care facility) for them in writing. The bill replaces the term "authorized representative" with "personal representative" to

align with federal regulations. (Under federal regulations, someone is a “personal representative” if they can legally act on a person’s behalf in making health care decisions.)

RECORDS FEES

Current law allows a health care provider or institution to charge up to 65 cents per page, including any applicable research or handling fees, related costs, and first-class postage, to supply a patient’s health record. Patients may also be charged an additional amount necessary to cover the cost of material for (1) providing a copy of an x-ray or (2) furnishing an original retained slide or tissue block or a new section cut from a retained tissue block. The bill instead establishes fees based on who makes the request, the types of records, and the number of pages as described below.

Existing law requires providers and institutions to give the health records to the requestor within 30 days after the request is made. For institutions, if the request was received less than 30 days from the patient’s discharge, they must provide the record when it is completed.

Requests by Patients or Their Personal Representatives

If a written records request is made directly by the patient or patient’s personal representative, the bill allows the provider or institution to charge no more than the fees allowed under federal law. (Federal law allows charging reasonable, cost-based fees that include only the cost of related labor, supplies, and postage.)

Under the bill, the fees charged must cover the provider’s or institution’s cost of providing copies of medical records and medical imaging materials (e.g., x-ray, MRI, CT, fluoroscopy, and mammography imaging), as well as the institution’s cost of furnishing tissue blocks and slides.

Requests by Other Parties

For requests made by someone other than the patient or patient’s personal representative, providers and institutions may charge up to the following amounts:

1. for paper and electronic copies, a \$10 search and retrieval fee, plus \$5 for the first 10 pages, \$20 for pages 11 to 25, \$40 for pages 26 to 50, an additional \$2.25 per page for pages 51 and beyond, and the actual cost of any required postage;
2. for medical imaging, a \$50 search and retrieval fee, \$25 per image, and the actual cost of any required postage;
3. for furnishing tissue blocks and slides, the amount needed to cover the cost of the materials; and
4. up to \$1,500 in total fees for copies, medical imaging, materials, slides, or blocks given in response to a single written request.

The bill also allows providers and institutions to require prepayment of these fees before providing the records.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 6 (03/28/2025)