

Legislative History

2002 Chapter 797 (AB 2179, Cohn) – Directed the Department of Managed Health Care (DHMC) and California Department of Insurance (CDI) to adopt regulations by January 1st, 2004, to ensure enrollee access to necessary health care services in a timely manner. Requires DMHC and CDI to make specified reports to the Assembly Committee on Health and the Senate Committee on Insurance on March 1st in 2003 and 2004 regarding the progress in implementation of this requirement. Authorized Director of DMHC to assess administrative penalties against a health care plan for its failure to comply with requirements concerning timely access to care. *CalPERS Position: None*

AB 497 (Wildman) – Would have required each health care service plan to establish and maintain a documented plan, approved by the department, for ensuring timely access for enrollees to a plan representative by telephone and to urgent, non-urgent, and referral appointments. The bill was enrolled by the legislature but vetoed by Governor Wilson, who said in his veto message that the bill was unnecessary as existing law required plans to make all services readily available and accessible at reasonable times, and that existing regulations already required a plan to have a documented system of monitoring and evaluating accessibility of care. *CalPERS Position: None*