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SENATE BILL 5436

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Talmadge, Moyer, Prentice, Fraser, Franklin and Winsley

Read first time 01/28/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to nutritional counseling for medicaid recipients;  
2 creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the high cost of  
5 medicaid in Washington may be reduced by exposing certain high-risk  
6 recipients to sound nutritional counseling. The legislature further  
7 finds that physicians treating these recipients are recommending  
8 nutritional counseling, but no funding exists for these services.  
9 Therefore, the legislature intends to establish a pilot project to  
10 provide data on the impact of nutritional counseling, the potential  
11 cost savings to the medicaid program, and the improved health of  
12 citizens.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A two-year pilot project in King,  
14 Pierce, and Spokane counties, administered by the department of social  
15 and health services, is established to determine the impact of  
16 nutritional counseling on recipients of medicaid.

17 (2) Recipients participating shall be referred by attending  
18 physicians. Physicians shall refer recipients based on whether a

1 medical condition could be improved by better nutrition. Focus should  
2 be on high-risk patients such as those with high blood pressure, heart  
3 disease, diabetes, lipid disorders, significant obesity, and other risk  
4 factors.

5 (3) Those providing counseling services during the pilot project  
6 shall be limited to registered dieticians, certified by the state of  
7 Washington, who shall maintain data on each patient counseled in the  
8 program.

9 (4) The department of social and health services shall contract  
10 with participating hospitals for the nutritional counseling services  
11 and establish project parameters. The department of social and health  
12 services shall develop by rule the limitation on the number of visits  
13 that may be made by the patients to the dieticians. The department of  
14 social and health services shall require interval progress reports from  
15 the counselors on each patient.

16 (5) The department of social and health services shall compile the  
17 data and prepare a report for the legislature by November 1, 1995.

18 (6) The project shall commence no later than September 1993.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of three hundred fifty thousand  
20 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
21 the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the  
22 department of social and health services for the purposes of this act.

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