
SENATE BILL 6185

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs, Keiser, Pridemore, Nelson, Chase, Kline, Frockt, Ranker, Harper, Tom, Conway, Kohl-Welles, and Murray

Read first time 01/13/12. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to preserving health insurance coverage for the
2 voluntary termination of a pregnancy by requiring health plans issued
3 on or after June 7, 2012, that provide coverage for maternity care or
4 services to provide a covered person with substantially equivalent
5 coverage to permit the voluntary termination of a pregnancy, by
6 prohibiting a health plan from limiting in any way a woman's access to
7 services related to the voluntary termination of a pregnancy other than
8 terms and conditions generally applicable to the health plan's coverage
9 of maternity care or services including applicable cost sharing, by not
10 limiting in any way a woman's constitutionally or statutorily protected
11 right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy, by clarifying that health
12 plans are not required to cover abortions that would be unlawful under
13 RCW 9.02.120, and by providing an exemption for a multistate plan that
14 does not cover the voluntary termination of pregnancies under federal
15 law; and adding a new section to chapter 48.43 RCW.

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

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 (1) If a health plan issued or renewed on or after the effective

1 date of this section provides coverage for maternity care or services,
2 the health plan must also provide a covered person with substantially
3 equivalent coverage to permit the voluntary termination of a pregnancy.

4 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a health plan
5 subject to subsection (1) of this section may not limit in any way a
6 woman's access to services related to the voluntary termination of a
7 pregnancy.

8 (b)(i) Coverage for the voluntary termination of a pregnancy may be
9 subject to terms and conditions generally applicable to the health
10 plan's coverage of maternity care or services, including applicable
11 cost sharing.

12 (ii) A health plan is not required to cover abortions that would be
13 unlawful under RCW 9.02.120.

14 (3) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to limit in any way
15 a woman's constitutionally or statutorily protected right to
16 voluntarily terminate a pregnancy.

17 (4) This section does not, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 18054(a)(6),
18 apply to a multistate plan that does not provide coverage for the
19 voluntary termination of a pregnancy.

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