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HOUSE BILL 1639

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives H. Myers, Chandler, Heavey, Wood, Edmondson, Reams, Lemmon, Ballasiotes, Ludwig, Carlson, Long, Roland, Rayburn, Ballard and Anderson

Read first time 02/03/93. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to a chiropractic pilot program for basic health  
2 plan enrollees; and adding a new section to chapter 70.47 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.47 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that the existing statutory system of  
7 health care regulation strongly favors allopathic medical care. The  
8 legislature finds that chiropractic medicine may provide a cost-  
9 effective alternative to allopathic medical care. A limited pilot  
10 program will help provide needed information to determine the  
11 following: If chiropractic care as primary care is made widely  
12 available through managed health care plans (a) would persons choose  
13 it, (b) would the health outcomes of these chiropractic care patients  
14 be better or worse than similarly situated allopathic care patients,  
15 and (c) would the availability of chiropractic care be effective in  
16 containing costs.

17 (2)(a) The state health care authority shall establish a pilot  
18 program that is designed to determine whether the availability of

1 chiropractic care will result in improved health outcomes and cost  
2 savings.

3 (b) The pilot program shall provide that basic health plan  
4 enrollees may voluntarily choose a health care benefit plan or managed  
5 health care system in which primary clinical care and clinical decision  
6 making is performed by chiropractic physicians licensed under chapter  
7 18.25 RCW.

8 (c) The capitated rate under the pilot program must be no greater  
9 than the average cost under managed health care systems.

10 (d) As a condition to enrollment in the pilot program, participants  
11 waive the right to legal action against the state or any of its  
12 agencies for care provided by chiropractic physicians under the scope  
13 of this section.

14 (3) The health care authority shall report to the legislature by  
15 December 1, 1995, on the results of the pilot program.

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