
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6256

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Winsley, Wojahn, Kohl, Pelz, Owen, Bauer, Fairley, Rasmussen, Fraser, Thibaudeau, Prentice, Heavey, Quigley and McAuliffe)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding severe trauma care services to
2 individuals who are unable to pay; adding new sections to chapter
3 70.168 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a successful
6 state-wide trauma care system depends on the voluntary participation of
7 hospitals and health care facilities as designated trauma care centers
8 for the special purpose of providing lifesaving medical care to victims
9 of severe trauma. The legislature further finds that these services
10 are expensive, and that providing them may create a particular
11 financial burden on designated trauma care services when this care
12 serves patients who cannot pay for it themselves and for whom there is
13 no third party payer.

14 It is the intent of the legislature to support the state-wide
15 trauma care system and its designated trauma centers with a fair and
16 equitable funding system that provides reimbursement for uncompensated
17 care. The legislature intends to provide financial assistance for
18 designated trauma care services on behalf of trauma patients for whom
19 other financial resources are not available.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.168 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) Levels I through V trauma care services are eligible for
4 reimbursement from the general fund only for patients who:

5 (a) Enter the designated trauma care service after qualifying for
6 trauma services through the trauma triage procedure developed by the
7 department of health;

8 (b) Have an injury severity score (ISS) of sixteen or greater.

9 (2) To be eligible for reimbursement, designated trauma care
10 services shall:

11 (a) Demonstrate all designation standards defined by the department
12 of health in rule;

13 (b) Provide complete trauma care data to the department's trauma
14 care registry according to requirements in WAC 246-976-430;

15 (c) Establish an internal quality assurance trauma program that
16 complies with WAC 246-976-880; and

17 (d) Enroll medically indigent trauma care patients in the state's
18 basic health plan.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.168 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 At least five million dollars from the general fund shall be
22 dedicated annually to reimburse every hospital, facility, or health
23 care provider authorized by the state to provide levels I through V
24 trauma care services. The department of social and health services
25 shall disburse this money exclusively to cover reasonable costs of care
26 for patients who meet charity care standards defined in RCW 70.170.020
27 and to increase the state's payment for medically indigent patients.
28 Reimbursement shall be provided at a rate that covers reasonable costs
29 for treating patients, but the rate shall not exceed the state's
30 medicaid rate.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health shall conduct or
32 cause to be conducted a study on all costs, charges, expenses, and
33 levels of reimbursement associated with providers of designated trauma
34 care services. The report shall include recommendations for
35 reimbursement of undercompensated and uncompensated trauma care at
36 designated trauma care services state-wide. This report shall be

1 submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature by July 1,
2 1997.

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