
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1191

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Backlund, Dyer, Skinner and Sherstad)

Read first time 03/10/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to review of mandated health insurance benefits;
2 amending RCW 48.42.060, 48.42.070, and 48.42.080; adding a new chapter
3 to Title 48 RCW; creating a new section; and recodifying RCW 48.42.060,
4 48.42.070, and 48.42.080.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.42.060 and 1984 c 56 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 The legislature ~~((takes notice of the increasing number of~~
9 ~~proposals for the))~~ finds that there is a continued interest in
10 mandating ~~((of))~~ certain health coverages or offering of health
11 coverages by ~~((insurance))~~ health carriers~~((, health care service~~
12 ~~contractors, and health maintenance organizations as a component of~~
13 ~~individual or group policies.))~~; and that improved access to these
14 health care services to segments of the population which desire them
15 can provide beneficial social and health consequences which may be in
16 the public interest.

17 The legislature finds further, however, that the cost ramifications
18 of expanding health coverages is ~~((resulting in a growing))~~ of
19 continuing concern~~((The way that such coverages are structured and~~

1 ~~the steps taken to create incentives to provide cost effective services~~
2 ~~or to take advantage of cost off setting features of services can~~
3 ~~significantly influence the cost impact of mandating particular~~
4 ~~coverages.); and that the merits of a particular ((coverage mandate))~~
5 mandated benefit must be balanced against a variety of consequences
6 which may go far beyond the immediate impact upon the cost of insurance
7 coverage. The legislature hereby finds and declares that a systematic
8 review of proposed mandated ((or mandatorily offered health coverage))
9 benefits, which explores all the ramifications of such proposed
10 legislation, will assist the legislature in determining whether
11 mandating a particular coverage or offering is in the public interest.
12 ((This chapter provides for a set of guidelines which should be
13 addressed in the consideration of all such mandated coverage proposals
14 coming before the legislature.)) The purpose of this chapter is to
15 establish a procedure for the proposal, review, and determination of
16 mandated benefit necessity.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Unless otherwise specifically provided, the
18 definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

19 (1) "Appropriate committees of the legislature" or "committees"
20 means nonfiscal standing committees of the Washington state senate and
21 house of representatives that have jurisdiction over statutes that
22 regulate health carriers, health care facilities, health care
23 providers, or health care services.

24 (2) "Department" means the Washington state department of health.

25 (3) "Health care facility" or "facility" means hospices licensed
26 under chapter 70.127 RCW, hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW,
27 rural health care facilities as defined in RCW 70.175.020, psychiatric
28 hospitals licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW, nursing homes licensed
29 under chapter 18.51 RCW, community mental health centers licensed under
30 chapter 71.05 or 71.24 RCW, kidney disease treatment centers licensed
31 under chapter 70.41 RCW, ambulatory diagnostic, treatment, or surgical
32 facilities licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, drug and alcohol treatment
33 facilities licensed under chapter 70.96A RCW, and home health agencies
34 licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, and includes such facilities if
35 owned and operated by a political subdivision or instrumentality of the
36 state, and such other facilities as required by federal law and
37 implementing regulations.

38 (4) "Health care provider" or "provider" means:

1 (a) A person regulated under Title 18 or chapter 70.127 RCW, to
2 practice health or health-related services or otherwise practicing
3 health care services in this state consistent with state law; or

4 (b) An employee or agent of a person described in (a) of this
5 subsection, acting in the course and scope of his or her employment.

6 (5) "Health care service" or "service" means a service, drug, or
7 medical equipment offered or provided by a health care facility and a
8 health care provider relating to the prevention, cure, or treatment of
9 illness, injury, or disease.

10 (6) "Health carrier" or "carrier" means a disability insurer
11 regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, a health care service
12 contractor as defined in RCW 48.44.010, a health maintenance
13 organization as defined in RCW 48.46.020, plans operating under the
14 state health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW, the state health
15 insurance pool operating under chapter 48.41 RCW, and insuring entities
16 regulated in chapter 48.43 RCW.

17 (7) "Mandated health benefit," "mandated benefit," or "benefit"
18 means coverage or offering required by law to be provided by a health
19 carrier to: (a) Cover a specific health care service or services; (b)
20 cover treatment of a specific condition or conditions; or (c) contract,
21 pay, or reimburse specific categories of health care providers for
22 specific services; however, it does not mean benefits established
23 pursuant to chapter 74.09, 41.05, or 70.47 RCW, or scope of practice
24 modifications pursuant to chapter 18.120 RCW.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 48.42.070 and 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 s 221 are each
26 amended to read as follows:

27 Mandated health benefits shall be established as follows:

28 (1) Every person who, or organization ((which)) that, seeks
29 ((sponsorship of a legislative proposal which would mandate a health
30 coverage or offering of a health coverage by an insurance carrier,
31 health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization as
32 a component of individual or group policies, shall submit a report to
33 the legislative committees having jurisdiction, assessing both the
34 social and financial impacts of such coverage, including the efficacy
35 of the treatment or service proposed, according to the guidelines
36 enumerated in RCW 48.42.080. Copies of the report shall be sent to the
37 state department of health for review and comment. The state
38 department of health shall make recommendations based on the report to

1 ~~the extent requested by the legislative committees))~~ to establish a
2 mandated benefit shall, at least ninety days prior to a regular
3 legislative session, submit a mandated benefit proposal to the
4 appropriate committees of the legislature, assessing the social impact,
5 financial impact, and evidence of health care service efficacy of the
6 benefit in strict adherence to the criteria enumerated in RCW 48.42.080
7 (as recodified by this act).

8 (2) The chair of a committee may request that the department
9 examine the proposal using the criteria set forth in RCW 48.42.080 (as
10 recodified by this act), however, such request must be made no later
11 than nine months prior to a subsequent regular legislative session.

12 (3) To the extent that funds are appropriated for this purpose, the
13 department shall report to the appropriate committees of the
14 legislature on the appropriateness of adoption no later than thirty
15 days prior to the legislative session during which the proposal is to
16 be considered.

17 (4) Mandated benefits must be authorized by law.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 48.42.080 and 1984 c 56 s 3 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 ~~((Guidelines for assessing the impact of proposed mandated or~~
21 ~~mandatorily offered health coverage to the extent that information is~~
22 ~~available, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:))~~

23 (1) Based on the availability of relevant information, the
24 following criteria shall be used to assess the impact of proposed
25 mandated benefits:

26 (a) The social impact: ((+a)) (i) To what extent is the
27 ((treatment or service)) benefit generally utilized by a significant
28 portion of the population? ((+b)) (ii) To what extent is the
29 ((insurance coverage)) benefit already generally available? ((+c))
30 (iii) If ((coverage)) the benefit is not generally available, to what
31 extent ((does the lack of coverage result in persons avoiding necessary
32 health care treatments)) has its unavailability resulted in persons not
33 receiving needed services? ((+d)) (iv) If the ((coverage)) benefit is
34 not generally available, to what extent ((does the lack of coverage
35 result)) has its unavailability resulted in unreasonable financial
36 hardship? ((+e)) (v) What is the level of public demand for the
37 ((treatment or service)) benefit? ((+f) What is the level of public
38 demand for insurance coverage of treatment or service?-(g)) (vi) What

1 is the level of interest of collective bargaining agents in negotiating
2 privately for inclusion of this ~~((coverage))~~ benefit in group
3 contracts?

4 ~~((+2))~~ (b) The financial impact: ~~((+a))~~ (i) To what extent will
5 the ~~((coverage))~~ benefit increase or decrease the cost of treatment or
6 service? ~~((+b))~~ (ii) To what extent will the coverage increase the
7 appropriate use of the ~~((treatment or service))~~ benefit? ~~((+c))~~ (iii)
8 To what extent will the ~~((mandated treatment or service))~~ benefit be a
9 substitute for a more expensive ~~((treatment or service))~~ benefit?
10 ~~((+d))~~ (iv) To what extent will the ~~((coverage))~~ benefit increase or
11 decrease the administrative expenses of ~~((insurance companies))~~ health
12 carriers and the premium and administrative expenses of policyholders?
13 ~~((+e))~~ (v) What will be the impact of this ~~((coverage))~~ benefit on the
14 total cost of health care services and on premiums for health coverage?
15 (vi) What will be the impact of this benefit on costs for state-
16 purchased health care? (vii) What will be the impact of this benefit on
17 affordability and access to coverage?

18 (c) Evidence of health care service efficacy:

19 (i) If a mandatory benefit of a specific service is sought, to what
20 extent has there been conducted professionally accepted controlled
21 trials demonstrating the health consequences of that service compared
22 to no service or an alternative service?

23 (ii) If a mandated benefit of a category of health care provider is
24 sought, to what extent has there been conducted professionally accepted
25 controlled trials demonstrating the health consequences achieved by the
26 mandated benefit of this category of health care provider?

27 (iii) To what extent will the mandated benefit enhance the general
28 health status of the state residents?

29 (2) The department shall consider the availability of relevant
30 information in assessing the completeness of the proposal.

31 (3) The department may supplement these criteria to reflect new
32 relevant information or additional significant issues.

33 (4) The department shall establish, where appropriate, ad hoc
34 panels composed of related experts, and representatives of carriers,
35 consumers, providers, and purchasers to assist in the proposal review
36 process. Ad hoc panel members shall serve without compensation.

37 (5) The health care authority shall evaluate the reasonableness and
38 accuracy of cost estimates associated with the proposed mandated
39 benefit that are provided to the department by the proposer or other

1 interested parties, and shall provide comment to the department.
2 Interested parties may, in addition, submit data directly to the
3 department.

4 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Section 2 of this act shall constitute a new
5 chapter in Title 48 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. RCW 48.42.060, 48.42.070, and 48.42.080 are
7 each recodified in the new chapter created in section 5 of this act.

8 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. If any provision of this act or its
9 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
10 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
11 persons or circumstances is not affected.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. If specific funding for the purposes of this
13 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
14 June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
15 void.

--- END ---