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HOUSE BILL 2248

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Huff and Cody; by request of Health Care Authority

Read first time 03/12/97. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1            AN ACT Relating to basic health plan agents' and brokers'  
2 commissions; and amending RCW 70.47.015.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.47.015 and 1995 c 265 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) The legislature finds that the basic health plan has been an  
7 effective program in providing health coverage for uninsured residents.  
8 Further, since 1993, substantial amounts of public funds have been  
9 allocated for subsidized basic health plan enrollment.

10           (2) It is the intent of the legislature that the basic health plan  
11 enrollment be expanded expeditiously, consistent with funds available  
12 in the health services account, with the goal of two hundred thousand  
13 adult subsidized basic health plan enrollees and one hundred thirty  
14 thousand children covered through expanded medical assistance services  
15 by June 30, 1997, with the priority of providing needed health services  
16 to children in conjunction with other public programs.

17           (3) Effective January 1, 1996, basic health plan enrollees whose  
18 income is less than one hundred twenty-five percent of the federal  
19 poverty level shall pay at least a ten-dollar premium share.

1 (4) No later than July 1, 1996, the administrator shall implement  
2 procedures whereby hospitals licensed under chapters 70.41 and 71.12  
3 RCW, health carrier, rural health care facilities regulated under  
4 chapter 70.175 RCW, and community and migrant health centers funded  
5 under RCW 41.05.220, may expeditiously assist patients and their  
6 families in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance  
7 coverage, and in submitting such applications directly to the health  
8 care authority or the department of social and health services. The  
9 health care authority and the department of social and health services  
10 shall make every effort to simplify and expedite the application and  
11 enrollment process.

12 ~~((5) No later than July 1, 1996, the administrator shall implement  
13 procedures whereby health insurance agents and brokers, licensed under  
14 chapter 48.17 RCW, may expeditiously assist patients and their families  
15 in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance coverage, and  
16 in submitting such applications directly to the health care authority  
17 or the department of social and health services. Brokers and agents  
18 shall be entitled to receive a commission for each individual sale of  
19 the basic health plan to anyone not at anytime previously signed up and  
20 a commission for each group sale of the basic health plan. No  
21 commission shall be provided upon a renewal. Commissions shall be  
22 determined based on the estimated annual cost of the basic health plan,  
23 however, commissions shall not result in a reduction in the premium  
24 amount paid to health carriers. For purposes of this section "health  
25 carrier" is as defined in RCW 48.43.005. The health care authority and  
26 the department of social and health services shall make every effort to  
27 simplify and expedite the application and enrollment process.))~~

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