
HOUSE BILL 2482

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Sump and Dyer

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to access to specialty health care services; adding
2 a new section to chapter 48.43 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
3 41.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that because of
6 taxpayers' long-standing support, Washington has developed and
7 maintains excellent publicly funded hospitals that provide exceptional
8 physician training and the most advanced specialty care available.
9 However, since these hospitals are in only one area of the state, which
10 is not centrally located, many citizens, who support these hospitals
11 with their state and federal taxes, are denied timely and appropriate
12 access to needed medical advice. It is the intent of the legislature
13 to ensure that physicians throughout the state have access to the
14 unique consultation services of these hospitals.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) For the purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Hospital" means a hospital that is licensed under RCW
2 70.41.090 and trains physicians and that: (i) Was established pursuant
3 to chapter 36.62 RCW; (ii) is administered by the regents of the
4 University of Washington; or (iii) is providing tertiary health
5 services, as defined in RCW 70.38.025, to children;

6 (b) "Physician" means a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or
7 18.71 RCW.

8 (2) Every health carrier that offers or provides coverage for
9 hospital services shall permit a physician who is treating a covered
10 person to access timely medical advice and consultation from
11 appropriate hospital staff, consistent with the administrative
12 procedures of the carrier. This section does not establish a standard
13 of medical care nor authorize unnecessary medical services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) For the purposes of this section:

17 (a) "Hospital" means a hospital that is licensed under RCW
18 70.41.090 and trains physicians and that: (i) Was established pursuant
19 to chapter 36.62 RCW; (ii) is administered by the regents of the
20 University of Washington; or (iii) is providing tertiary health
21 services, as defined in RCW 70.38.025, to children;

22 (b) "Physician" means a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or
23 18.71 RCW.

24 (2) Every health plan offered pursuant to this chapter or chapter
25 70.47 RCW shall permit a physician who is treating a covered person to
26 access timely medical advice and consultation from appropriate hospital
27 staff, consistent with the administrative procedures of the authority.
28 This section does not establish a standard of medical care nor
29 authorize unnecessary medical services.

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