
SENATE BILL 5178

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Wood, Wojahn, Deccio, Bauer, Fairley, Goings, Prince, Prentice, Franklin, Horn, Patterson and Winsley

Read first time 01/17/97. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the enactment of the diabetes cost reduction
2 act; adding a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 48.43 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that diabetes imposes a significant health
8 risk and tremendous financial burden on the citizens and government of
9 the state of Washington, and that access to the medically accepted
10 standards of care for diabetes, its treatment and supplies, and self-
11 management training and education is crucial to prevent or delay the
12 short and long-term complications of diabetes and its attendant costs.

13 (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
14 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (a) "Diabetic person" means a person with insulin using diabetes,
16 noninsulin using diabetes, elevated blood glucose levels induced by
17 pregnancy, or other medical conditions or medical therapies that wholly
18 or partially consist of elevated blood glucose levels; and

1 (b) "Health care provider" means a health care provider as defined
2 in RCW 48.43.005.

3 (2) All state-purchased health care purchased or renewed after the
4 effective date of this act shall provide services or coverage for
5 services for diabetic persons, to include at least the following:

6 (a) Appropriate equipment and supplies, as prescribed by a health
7 care provider, that includes insulin, syringes, injection aids, blood
8 glucose monitors, test strips for blood glucose monitors, visual
9 reading and urine test strips, insulin pumps and accessories to the
10 pumps, insulin infusion devices, prescriptive oral agents for
11 controlling blood sugar levels, podiatric appliances for prevention of
12 complications associated with diabetes, and glucagon emergency kits;
13 and

14 (b) Outpatient self-management training and education, including
15 medical nutrition therapy.

16 (3) Diabetes outpatient self-management training and education may
17 only be provided by health care providers with expertise in diabetes.

18 (4) Coverage required under this section may be subject to, but may
19 not exceed, the annual deductibles or coinsurance established for all
20 other similar coverage within a policy.

21 (5) Health insurance coverage may not be reduced or eliminated due
22 to this section.

23 (6) The health care authority shall enforce this section.

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

26 The legislature finds that diabetes imposes a significant health
27 risk and tremendous financial burden on the citizens and government of
28 the state of Washington, and that access to the medically accepted
29 standards of care for diabetes, its treatment and supplies, and self-
30 management training and education is crucial to prevent or delay the
31 short and long-term complications of diabetes and its attendant costs.

32 (1) For the purposes of this section, "diabetic person" means a
33 person with insulin using diabetes, noninsulin using diabetes, elevated
34 blood glucose levels induced by pregnancy, or other medical conditions
35 or medical therapies that wholly or partially consist of elevated blood
36 glucose levels.

1 (2) All health carriers, for health care purchased or renewed after
2 the effective date of this act, shall provide coverage for diabetic
3 persons, to include at least the following:

4 (a) Appropriate equipment and supplies, as prescribed by a health
5 care provider, that includes insulin, syringes, injection aids, blood
6 glucose monitors, test strips for blood glucose monitors, visual
7 reading and urine test strips, insulin pumps and accessories to the
8 pumps, insulin infusion devices, prescriptive oral agents for
9 controlling blood sugar levels, podiatric appliances for prevention of
10 complications associated with diabetes, and glucagon emergency kits;
11 and

12 (b) Outpatient self-management training and education, including
13 medical nutrition therapy.

14 (3) Diabetes outpatient self-management training and education may
15 only be provided by health care providers with expertise in diabetes.

16 (4) Coverage required under this section may be subject to, but may
17 not exceed, the annual deductibles or coinsurance established for all
18 other similar coverage within a policy.

19 (5) Health carriers may not be reduced or eliminate coverage due to
20 this section.

21 (6) The insurance commissioner shall enforce this section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 1998.

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