

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1099

Providing health benefits to members.

Brief Title

Hearing Date 2/3/99

Reps Sullivan, Schmidt, Gombosky

Sponsor(s)

Staff Scot MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

BACKGROUND:

Washington national guard and retired members are not currently covered by the state health insurance plan. Members and retired members may have health insurance through the employer, but they are not covered by any state system through the guard service.

SUMMARY:

Allow Washington national guard and retired members to purchase health benefits from the Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) excluding long term care insurance, disability insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance.

Active and retired members would be charged the same health care benefits as state employees and retirees would be required to pay the full cost of coverage. This cost is partially subsidized by the PEBB and therefore is a reduced rate than market rate individual coverage.

Members and retirees would be charged additional administrative costs to activate a new group with the PEBB and for the PEBB to negotiate a contract with health providers for them.

Excluded retired members from the explicit medical subsidy provided in statute.

Implementation should happen no later than January 2000.

FISCAL NOTE: On file.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session which bill passed.