
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2364

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Carlson, Edmonds, Parlette, Edwards, Kastama, Conway, Schual-Berke, Kagi, Kenney, Tokuda, Murray, Ogden, Ruderman, McDonald, Stensen, Van Luven, Lovick, Voloria, Poulsen, Wood, Kessler, Regala, Reardon, Cooper, Anderson and Santos)

Read first time 02/04/2000. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating employment barriers for individuals
2 with disabilities; reenacting and amending RCW 74.09.510; adding a new
3 section to chapter 74.09 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A
4 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that individuals with
7 disabilities face many barriers and disincentives to employment.
8 Individuals with disabilities are often unable to obtain health
9 insurance that provides the services and supports necessary to allow
10 them to live independently and enter or rejoin the work force. In some
11 cases, government policies and services create barriers to employment
12 through disqualifying workers with disabilities from needed health care
13 and support services. The legislature finds that there is a compelling
14 public interest in eliminating barriers to work by creating financial
15 incentives to work, by continuing needed health care coverage, and by
16 providing individuals with disabilities real choice in obtaining the
17 services and technology they need to find, enter, and maintain
18 employment.

1 The legislature intends to strengthen the state's policy of
2 supporting individuals with disabilities in leading fully productive
3 lives by implementing the ticket to work and work incentives
4 improvement act, public law H.R. 1180, that will foster higher levels
5 of employment and economic self-sufficiency. This shall include
6 improving incentives to work by continuing coverage for health care and
7 support services, by seeking federal funding for innovative programs,
8 and by exploring options which provide individuals with disabilities a
9 choice in receiving services needed to obtain and maintain employment.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to remove barriers to
13 employment for individuals with disabilities by providing medical
14 assistance to the working disabled in accordance with federal law and
15 eligibility requirements established by the department.

16 (2) The department shall establish income, resource, and cost-
17 sharing requirements in accordance with federal law. In developing
18 premium obligations and cost-sharing requirements under this act, the
19 department must strongly consider that individuals receiving benefits
20 under this act:

21 (a) Will be employed, and may be earning significant income.
22 Premium obligations and cost-sharing requirements must be designed to
23 reduce the public funding needed to subsidize the cost of coverage, but
24 must not be set so high as to create substantial barriers to obtaining
25 coverage under this act; and

26 (b) May have employer-sponsored health insurance coverage. The
27 department must make every effort to maximize opportunities to
28 coordinate benefits with employer-sponsored coverage available to
29 individuals receiving benefits under this act.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.09.510 and 1997 c 58 s 201 and 1997 c 59 s 14 are
31 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

32 Medical assistance may be provided in accordance with eligibility
33 requirements established by the department, as defined in the social
34 security Title XIX state plan for mandatory categorically needy persons
35 and: (1) Individuals who would be eligible for cash assistance except
36 for their institutional status; (2) individuals who are under twenty-
37 one years of age, and who (~~would be eligible for temporary assistance~~

1 ~~for needy families, but do not qualify as dependent children and who~~)
2 are in (a) foster care, (b) subsidized adoption, (c) a nursing facility
3 or an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, or (d)
4 inpatient psychiatric facilities; (3) the aged, blind, and disabled
5 who: (a) Receive only a state supplement, or (b) would not be eligible
6 for cash assistance if they were not institutionalized; (4)
7 categorically eligible individuals who meet the income and resource
8 requirements of the cash assistance programs; (5) individuals who are
9 enrolled in managed health care systems, who have otherwise lost
10 eligibility for medical assistance, but who have not completed a
11 current six-month enrollment in a managed health care system, and who
12 are eligible for federal financial participation under Title XIX of the
13 social security act; (6) children and pregnant women allowed by federal
14 statute for whom funding is appropriated; (7) working individuals with
15 disabilities authorized under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the social
16 security act for whom funding is appropriated; (8) other individuals
17 eligible for medical services under RCW 74.09.035 and 74.09.700 for
18 whom federal financial participation is available under Title XIX of
19 the social security act; and ~~((+8+))~~ (9) persons allowed by section
20 1931 of the social security act for whom funding is appropriated.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 The department shall:

24 (1) Work with interested public and private entities to determine
25 the feasibility of seeking designation as one or more employment
26 networks within the state to serve social security administration
27 recipients with disabilities who are issued a ticket to work under the
28 provisions of the ticket to work and work incentives improvement act;

29 (2) Explore the feasibility of federal grants available to assist
30 in the development of infrastructure to assist persons with
31 disabilities seek, gain, and maintain employment; and

32 (3) Determine the feasibility of applying for a demonstration grant
33 to provide medicaid benefits for individuals with potentially severe
34 disabilities under the ticket to work and work incentives improvement
35 act, as an incentive to obtain or keep employment in lieu of general
36 assistance cash benefits.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect October 1, 2000.

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