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HOUSE BILL 2638

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Reardon, Dickerson, Miloscia, Kagi, Tokuda, Edwards, Kenney, O'Brien, Kessler, Lantz, Santos, Haigh, Ogden, Lovick, Constantine, Keiser, Murray, McIntire, Ruderman, Rockefeller, Stensen and Anderson

Read first time 01/18/2000. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of the kids get care pilot  
2 project; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Promoting the good health of children is a  
5 paramount interest of the state of Washington. Children with poor  
6 health are less likely to grow into productive adults. They are less  
7 able to function well in school. And, if they develop health problems  
8 that are often preventable, they are very expensive to care for and  
9 educate. The vast majority of children in Washington state are  
10 eligible for some health insurance, but many are difficult to enroll in  
11 these insurance programs because of many barriers. Uninsured children  
12 are less likely to have a usual source of care and get the preventive  
13 care needed to prevent serious illness. Also, many insured children do  
14 not receive the preventive services they need. It is the intent of the  
15 legislature to make all children eligible for preventive services and  
16 ensure they have appropriate preventive services. It is the further  
17 intent of the legislature to identify children who are without access  
18 to health care, develop systems to improve their access to preventive

1 services, and examine ways to ensure that these children have access to  
2 acute and chronic care services.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The kids get care pilot project is  
4 established in the department of health. The secretary of the  
5 department shall:

6 (1) Appoint a director of the kids get care pilot program. The  
7 director shall coordinate with the health care authority and the  
8 department of social and health services to develop administrative  
9 procedures and coordinated funding mechanisms to carry out the intent  
10 of this program. These agencies shall cooperate with the director to  
11 develop a program that is clear, straightforward and easily  
12 understandable to the families and providers involved;

13 (2) Identify five counties in different congressional districts in  
14 which to establish pilot projects;

15 (3) Develop a simple, uniform eligibility system that builds as  
16 much as possible on existing technology to enroll children in all  
17 public programs and identify children who are not eligible for any  
18 other health coverage or insurance. The eligibility system shall be  
19 available to all cooperating providers who care for children, social  
20 service agencies, and outreach organizations interested in enrolling  
21 children in health insurance;

22 (4) Identify providers in the pilot counties who are interested in  
23 caring for children and are willing to participate in this program.  
24 The goal shall be to find a medical home for all of the children in  
25 these communities and develop a system to ensure that children needing  
26 a medical home are referred to and accepted by participating providers;

27 (5) Develop funding for this pilot program from private sources and  
28 by maximizing public sources already appropriated. The funding shall  
29 be used to support staff developing and administering this program and  
30 to pay for the preventive services provided to the children who are not  
31 otherwise covered by existing private or public insurance;

32 (6) Develop a schedule of preventive services to which all children  
33 should have access. This schedule of preventive benefits shall be used  
34 to establish the basic services that the program will subsidize as  
35 outlined in subsection (7) of this section;

36 (7) Establish a sliding scale so that the preventive services  
37 funded under this program are partially subsidized for lower income  
38 families but remain affordable;

1 (8) Coordinate the pilot projects with local health departments to  
2 ensure that population-based information and outreach is used to  
3 maximize the efficiency of the outreach, enrollment, and delivery of  
4 preventive services;

5 (9) Develop outreach programs in all pilot sites that emphasize the  
6 public health messages of good health habits, appropriate screening,  
7 effective services, and the availability of these preventive services;

8 (10) Coordinate this outreach with local health departments, social  
9 service providers, health care providers, schools, religious  
10 institutions, and other interested parties in the communities; and

11 (11) Develop a system to measure the impact of this program on the  
12 health of the children in the pilot communities.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The kids get care account is created in the  
14 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from private sources must  
15 be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may be used  
16 only to support the purposes of the kids get care project established  
17 by section 2 of this act. Only the secretary of the department of  
18 health or the secretary's designee may authorize expenditures from the  
19 account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter  
20 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The secretary of the department of health  
22 shall report to the governor and the legislature on the effectiveness  
23 of the kids get care project by December 2001.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as  
25 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund  
26 to the department of health for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001,  
27 to carry out the purposes of this act.

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