
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4409

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Parlette, Cody, Alexander and Conway

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes that the cost of prescription
2 medication is rising dramatically; and

3 WHEREAS, Medication interactions and the potential side effects of
4 new medications can force patients to sample several medications until
5 the appropriate medication and dosage are determined; and

6 WHEREAS, The state's Medicaid program expends approximately four
7 hundred thirty-six million dollars each biennium on prescription
8 medications; and

9 WHEREAS, Medicaid clients are provided with a thirty-day supply of
10 medication which must be discarded if the client has a reaction or
11 intolerance to the medication; and

12 WHEREAS, The Legislature finds that a more effective and efficient
13 means of providing prescription medication services to Medicaid clients
14 is necessary to reduce waste and further control the increasing
15 medication costs to the program;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives,
17 with the Senate concurring, That a joint legislative task force be
18 established to review the current Medicaid prescription medication
19 program and identify areas for increased efficiency within the program,
20 and to evaluate the utilization of high-use, high-cost medications and
21 the length of time such medications are typically prescribed; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That:

2 (1) The task force shall have eight members to be appointed as
3 follows:

4 (a) Four members of the House of Representatives, two from each of
5 the major caucuses, to be appointed by the Co-Speakers of the House of
6 Representatives; and

7 (b) Four members of the Senate, two from each of the major
8 caucuses, appointed by the President of the Senate.

9 (2) The task force shall have co-chairs, one to be selected from
10 the House of Representatives and the other from the opposite caucus in
11 the Senate; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall use legislative
13 staff and facilities. The members of the task force shall be
14 reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and
15 43.03.060. All expenses of the task force, including travel, shall be
16 paid jointly by the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall report any
18 preliminary findings and recommendations it makes to the Legislature by
19 September 30, 1999, and shall report any final findings and
20 recommendations it makes to the Legislature by December 15, 1999; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall expire April 1,
22 2000.

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