

6391

Sponsor(s): Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio and Kohl-Welles

Brief Description: Authorizing the disproportionate share study.

**SB 6391 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Directs the medical assistance administration and the health care authority to jointly conduct a state-wide study to determine payment sources for primary health care providers performing outpatient primary care services for the state's health options and basic health plan. The purpose of the study is to determine which providers serve a relatively high number of low-income clients, and how that affects the financial viability of their medical practice.

Directs the agencies to use this data to develop proposals that address any inequities that threaten the financial stability of these providers.

Requires the medical assistance administration and the health care authority to report to the legislature by December 1, 2001, with the results of the disproportionate share study. The report will include recommendations on:

- (1) What constitutes a proportionately high number of low-income clients, and how that threatens the financial viability of primary care providers;
- (2) possible rate adjustment schedules for these providers;
- (3) ways to implement such a rate adjustment; and
- (4) what such an adjusted rate program will cost.