
HOUSE BILL 1742

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Gombosky, Cox, Cody, Schual-Berke, Edwards and Santos

Read first time 02/02/2001. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to regional health care access demonstration
2 projects; adding a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that the state of Washington has made
8 significant progress towards decreasing the number of persons in the
9 state without health insurance coverage. However, despite these
10 efforts, a substantial number of persons in Washington state remain
11 uninsured. The legislature further finds that efforts are currently
12 underway in local areas to identify and implement innovative approaches
13 to increasing access to health coverage and health services for low-
14 income families and people with disabilities or chronic health
15 conditions. Some of these innovative approaches require flexibility on
16 the part of the state in its health care purchasing, administration of
17 eligibility determination and enrollment processes, or regulatory
18 activities. The legislature intends to further local efforts by giving

1 the administrator the authority to grant applications for regional
2 health care access demonstration projects.

3 (2) The administrator may grant applications for regional health
4 care access demonstration projects under the terms and conditions set
5 forth in this section. A panel must be established for review and
6 decisions upon each demonstration project application. The panel must
7 include representatives of the health care authority, the department of
8 social and health services, the department of health, and the office of
9 the insurance commissioner.

10 (3) The administrator may grant regional health care access
11 demonstration project applications in up to six sites around the state.
12 The demonstration sites chosen must be representative of urban and
13 rural communities in eastern and western Washington. The demonstration
14 projects may have a duration of up to five years.

15 (4) In granting regional health care access demonstration project
16 applications, the administrator may waive compliance with the
17 requirements of RCW 70.47.060 (7) and (11), 70.47.100, and 74.09.522 to
18 the extent and for the periods necessary to enable the local initiative
19 to carry out its demonstration project. The activities and operations
20 of any demonstration project authorized under this section are exempt
21 from the provisions and requirements of Title 48 RCW. The
22 administrator is authorized, in granting an application for a
23 demonstration project under this section, to include terms and
24 conditions in the demonstration project adequate to ensure that
25 consumers in regions served by the projects are adequately protected in
26 the event of financial failure or difficulties of any entity
27 participating in the demonstration project.

28 (5) Any application for a regional health care access demonstration
29 project under this section must:

30 (a) Be designed to improve access to health care for uninsured low-
31 income families and people with disabilities or chronic illness who
32 live in the region included in the demonstration project;

33 (b) Not make modifications in medical assistance programs or the
34 basic health plan that have the effect of disadvantaging low-income
35 families and people with disabilities or chronic illness who live in
36 the region included in the demonstration project;

37 (c) Identify at least one goal of improved population-based health
38 status that will result from the demonstration project's efforts;

1 (d) Include proposed steps to reduce duplication and simplify
2 administration of medical assistance programs and the basic health
3 plan;

4 (e) Coordinate eligibility, enrollment, and service delivery across
5 medical assistance, the basic health plan and other programs serving
6 low-income families and people with disabilities or chronic illness who
7 live in the region included in the demonstration project;

8 (f) Ensure the availability of an adequate number and type of
9 health care providers in any provider network sponsored by or through
10 the demonstration project; and

11 (g) Include a rigorous evaluation component. The evaluation must
12 be designed to measure:

13 (i) The per capita health care expenditures for the populations
14 targeted for coverage under the demonstration project;

15 (ii) The impact of the demonstration project upon the targeted
16 population, measured in terms of health insurance coverage, either
17 public or private, access to health services, and health status;

18 (iii) The impact of the demonstration project upon charity care
19 expenses for hospitals in the region participating in the demonstration
20 project;

21 (iv) The level of community and consumer input in the design and
22 implementation of the demonstration project; and

23 (v) The adequacy of any health care provider network sponsored by
24 or through the demonstration project.

25 (6) An entity submitting an application for a regional health care
26 access demonstration project must:

27 (a) Demonstrate the capacity to undertake the demonstration project
28 described in the application;

29 (b) Identify monetary and in-kind resources that will be brought to
30 bear in support of the demonstration project, and the source of those
31 resources;

32 (c) Demonstrate broad participation and support from the
33 communities included in the region to be covered by the demonstration
34 project. The participation should include support from health care
35 providers, social services providers, employers, carriers, local public
36 health departments or districts, city or county councils or
37 commissions, and consumers;

38 (d) Identify the means through which the demonstration project will
39 be accountable to the communities included in the region.

1 Accountability may be achieved through, but would not be limited to:
2 The lead agency of the demonstration project having a publicly elected
3 board, such as a hospital district, or a board composed of elected
4 officials, such as a local public health district; establishment of a
5 project steering committee that is broadly representative of the
6 communities included in the region; and processes for obtaining public
7 input as to the demonstration project's design and implementation on a
8 regular basis.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of four million dollars, or as much
10 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
11 June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the health care authority for
12 the purpose of paying for costs of demonstration projects under section
13 1 of this act that are not covered by payments under chapters 74.09 and
14 70.47 RCW.

--- END ---