
SENATE BILL 5363

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Parlette, Hewitt, Morton, Costa, Snyder, Hochstatter, Honeyford and Sheahan

Read first time 01/19/2001. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing state medical assistance
2 reimbursements for small, rural hospitals that meet the criteria
3 of a critical access hospital; adding new sections to chapter
4 74.09 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that promoting a
7 financially viable health care system in all parts of the state is
8 a paramount interest. The health care financing administration has
9 recognized the crucial role that hospitals play in providing care
10 in rural areas by creating the critical access hospital program to
11 allow small, rural hospitals that qualify to receive reasonable
12 cost-based reimbursement for medicare services. The legislature
13 further finds that creating a similar reimbursement system for the
14 state's medical assistance programs in small, rural hospitals that
15 qualify will help assure the long-term financial viability of the
16 rural health system in those communities.

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

3 Payments for recipients eligible for medical assistance
4 programs under this chapter for services provided by hospitals,
5 regardless of the beneficiary's managed care enrollment status,
6 shall be made based on allowable costs incurred during the year,
7 when services are provided by a rural hospital certified by the
8 health care financing administration as a critical access
9 hospital. Any additional payments made by the medical assistance
10 administration for the healthy options program shall be no more
11 than the additional amounts per service paid under this section
12 for other medical assistance programs.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 The department shall implement the program created in section 2
16 of this act within sixty days of the effective date of this act
17 regardless of the beneficiary's managed care status.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
19 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
20 provided by June 30, 2001, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
21 act is null and void.

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