
SENATE BILL 6833

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Winsley, Thibaudeau and Franklin

Read first time 03/04/2002. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to medical care for certain immigrants; amending
2 RCW 74.08A.100 and 74.09.415; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.100 and 1997 c 57 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The state shall exercise its option under P.L. 104-193 to continue
7 services to legal immigrants under temporary assistance for needy
8 families, ((medicaid)) the state's basic health plan as provided in
9 chapter 70.47 RCW, and social services block grant programs.
10 Eligibility for these benefits for legal immigrants arriving after
11 August 21, 1996, is limited to those families where the parent,
12 parents, or legal guardians have been in residence in Washington state
13 for a period of twelve consecutive months before making their
14 application for assistance. Legal immigrants who lose benefits under
15 the supplemental security income program as a result of P.L. 104-193
16 are immediately eligible for benefits under the state's general
17 assistance-unemployable program. The department shall redetermine
18 income and resource eligibility at least annually, in accordance with
19 existing state policy.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.09.415 and 1998 c 245 s 144 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) There is hereby established a program to be known as the
4 children's health program.

5 To the extent of available funds:

6 (a) Health care services may be provided to persons who are under
7 eighteen years of age with household incomes at or below the federal
8 poverty level and (~~not otherwise~~) eligible for medical assistance or
9 the limited casualty program for the medically needy.

10 (b) The determination of eligibility of recipients for health care
11 services shall be the responsibility of the department. The
12 application process shall be easy to understand and, to the extent
13 possible, applications shall be made available at local schools and
14 other appropriate locations. The department shall make eligibility
15 determinations within the time frames for establishing eligibility for
16 children on medical assistance, as defined by RCW 74.09.510.

17 (c) The amount, scope, and duration of health care services
18 provided to eligible children under the children's health program shall
19 be the same as that provided to children under medical assistance, as
20 defined in RCW 74.09.520.

21 (2) The legislature is interested in assessing the effectiveness of
22 the prenatal care program. However, the legislature recognizes the
23 cost and complexity associated with such assessment.

24 The legislature accepts the effectiveness of prenatal and maternity
25 care at improving birth outcomes when these services are received by
26 eligible persons. Therefore, the legislature intends to focus scarce
27 assessment resources to determine the extent to which support services
28 such as child care, psychosocial and nutritional assessment and
29 counseling, case management, transportation, and other support services
30 authorized by chapter 296, Laws of 1990, result in receipt of prenatal
31 and maternity care by eligible persons.

32 The University of Washington shall conduct a study, based on a
33 statistically significant statewide sampling of data, to evaluate the
34 effectiveness of the maternity care access program set forth in RCW
35 74.09.760 through 74.09.820 based on the principles set forth in RCW
36 74.09.770.

37 The University of Washington shall develop a plan and budget for
38 the study in consultation with the joint legislative audit and review

1 committee. The joint legislative audit and review committee shall also
2 monitor the progress of the study.

3 The department of social and health services shall make data and
4 other information available as needed to the University of Washington
5 as required to conduct this study.

6 The study shall determine:

7 (a) The characteristics of women receiving services, including
8 health risk factors;

9 (b) The extent to which access to maternity care and support
10 services have improved in this state as a result of this program;

11 (c) The utilization of services and birth outcomes for women and
12 infants served by this program by type of practitioner;

13 (d) The extent to which birth outcomes for women receiving services
14 under this program have improved in comparison to birth outcomes of
15 nonmedicaid mothers;

16 (e) The impact of increased medicaid reimbursement to physicians on
17 provider participation;

18 (f) The difference between costs for services provided under this
19 program and medicaid reimbursement for the services;

20 (g) The gaps in services, if any, that may still exist for women
21 and their infants as defined by RCW 74.09.790 (1) and (4) served by
22 this program, excluding pregnant substance abusers, and women covered
23 by private health insurance; and

24 (h) The number and mix of services provided to eligible women as
25 defined by subsection (2)(g) of this section and the effect on birth
26 outcomes as compared to nonmedicaid birth outcomes.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect October 1, 2002.

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