

SHB 2459 - H AMD

By Representative Cody

1 On page 75, line 15, increase the health services account--
2 state appropriation by \$150,000.

3 On page 75, line 22, correct the total.

4 On page 77, after line 37, insert the following:

5 "(10) \$150,000 of the health services account--state
6 appropriation is provided for fiscal year 2005 solely to conduct a
7 study and prepare recommendations to the legislature related to
8 health care financing, cost containment and quality improvement in
9 the state's health care system. The report and recommendations
10 must be submitted to the governor and appropriate committees of the
11 legislature by October 1, 2005.

12 (a) The study shall be conducted jointly by the administrator,
13 the department of health and the state board of health. An advisory
14 committee shall be established that includes representatives of at
15 least the following individuals or entities: Business; labor
16 organizations; consumers, including people with disabilities;
17 communities of color; health care providers and facilities; health
18 insurance carriers; academic or health care research institutions;
19 health care ethicists; the department of social and health
20 services; and the department of labor and industries. The
21 committee shall be actively consulted with in conducting the study
22 and preparing recommendations.

23 (b) The following issues shall be examined and addressed in the
24 study and recommendations:

25 (i) Assessing Washington state's health care needs and
26 available resources. In assessing health care needs, improving
27 health status and health outcomes for residents of Washington state
28 should be the primary focus;

1 (ii) The impacts of the employer-based health insurance system
2 upon the availability and affordability of health insurance
3 coverage in Washington state. The impacts to be considered
4 include but are not limited to:

5 (A) Trends in employer sponsored health insurance coverage
6 among large and small employers, including an assessment of the
7 impact of the failure of some large employers to provide health
8 insurance coverage to their workers on the competitive environment
9 between employers that do provide coverage and those that do not;

10 (B) The appropriate role of medical assistance programs, the
11 state childrens health insurance program and the basic health plan
12 as a source of health care coverage for low wage workers whose
13 employers do not offer health insurance coverage, and the fiscal
14 impact of that coverage upon the state;

15 (iii) Containing the cost of health care coverage;

16 (iv) Improving the quality and effectiveness of the health care
17 system through increased focus upon evidence-based medicine, proven
18 preventive health services, management of chronic disease,
19 implementation of proven patient safety strategies, and other
20 appropriate mechanisms;

21 (v) Decreasing health disparities between racial and ethnic
22 groups;

23 (vi) Increasing the transparency of health care costs and the
24 relative efficiency with which care is delivered; and

25 (vii) Consolidation of existing state programs to achieve
26 efficiencies where possible.

27 (c) To provide more information related to the role of state
28 funded health insurance programs in covering low wage workers, the
29 administrator, in consultation with the department of social and
30 health services, shall provide a report to the legislature by
31 February 1, 2005 on employers whose employees are receiving
32 benefits through the basic health plan or medical assistance for
33 themselves or their dependents. The report must include
34 information on the size of the employers, the number of employees
35 who are receiving benefits through the basic health plan or medical
36 assistance; the number of enrollees who are spouses or dependents
37 of their employees; whether the employers offer health benefits to
38 their employees; and the cost to the state of providing basic

1 health plan or medical assistance for their employees and enrolled
2 dependents."

EFFECT: A study on health care financing, cost containment, and quality improvement of the state's health care system will be conducted by the administrator of the health care authority, the department of health, and state board of health. The report and recommendations must be submitted to the legislature and governor by October 1, 2005. Also requires a report to the legislature by February 1, 2005 on employers whose employees are receiving benefits through the basic health plan or medical assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increases health services account by \$150,000.