

2797-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Morrell, Cody, Linville, G. Simpson, Edwards, Kenney and Ormsby; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

Brief Description: Increasing access to health insurance options for certain persons eligible for the Federal Health Coverage Tax Credit under the Trade Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-210).

**HB 2797-S.E - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares that "health coverage tax credit program" means the program created by the Trade Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-210) that provides a federal tax credit that subsidizes private health insurance coverage for displaced workers certified to receive certain trade adjustment assistance benefits and for individuals receiving benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation.

Provides that "health coverage tax credit eligible enrollee" means individual workers and their qualified family members who lose their jobs due to the effects of international trade and are eligible for certain trade adjustment assistance benefits; or are eligible for benefits under the alternative trade adjustment assistance program; or are people who receive benefits from the pension benefit guaranty corporation and are at least fifty-five years old.

Declares that the administrator has the duty to determine the periodic premiums due the administrator from health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees. Premiums due from health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees must be in an amount equal to the cost charged by the managed health care system provider to the state for the plan, plus the administrative cost of providing the plan to those enrollees and the premium tax under RCW 48.14.0201.

Directs the administrator to consider the impact of eligibility determination by the appropriate federal agency designated by the Trade Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-210) as well as the premium collection and remittance activities by the United States internal revenue service when determining the administrative cost charged for health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees.

Directs the administrator to establish a mechanism for receiving premium payments from the United States internal revenue service for health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees.

Requires the administrator to evaluate, with the cooperation of participating managed health care system providers, the impact on the basic health plan of enrolling health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees. The administrator shall issue to the appropriate committees of the legislature preliminary evaluations on June 1, 2005, and January 1, 2006, and a final evaluation by June 1, 2006. The evaluation shall address the number of persons enrolled, the duration of their enrollment, their utilization of covered services relative to other basic health plan enrollees, and the extent to which their enrollment contributed to any change in the cost of the basic health plan.

Directs the administrator to end the participation of health coverage tax credit eligible enrollees in the basic health plan if the federal government reduces or terminates premium payments on their behalf through the United States internal revenue service.