
HOUSE BILL 1590

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody, Appleton, Dickerson, Williams, Clibborn, Moeller and Kagi

Read first time 01/28/2005. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to decreasing administrative burdens for providers
2 and plans participating in state purchased health care programs; adding
3 a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; and making appropriations.

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 To decrease administrative burdens for providers and plans
8 participating in state purchased health care programs, the
9 administrator, the assistant secretary for the medical assistance
10 administration of the department of social and health services, and the
11 director of the department of labor and industries, in collaboration
12 with health carriers, health care providers, and the office of the
13 insurance commissioner shall, within available resources:

14 (1) Improve the timeliness of claims processing and the
15 distribution of medical assistance program fee schedules, and more
16 clearly define the scope of coverage under managed care contracts;

17 (2) Improve the capacity for electronic billing and claims
18 submission and provide electronic access to eligibility, benefits, and
19 exclusion information;

1 (3) Develop clear audit and data requirements for contracting
2 managed health care plans and improve consistency between claims
3 processing and published fee schedules;

4 (4) Conform billing codes with providers and between agencies with
5 national and regional standards wherever possible;

6 (5) Take steps to implement cost-effective measures under this
7 section by December 2006, and on or before December 1, 2005, provide a
8 progress report to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the
9 legislature on the feasibility of implementation and any fiscal
10 constraints or regulatory or statutory barriers; and

11 (6) Participate in a standardized, secure on-line health care
12 information exchange program.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars,
14 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
15 year ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the department of
16 social and health services to participate in a standardized, secure on-
17 line health care information exchange program.

18 (2) The sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as
19 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
20 2007, from the general fund to the department of social and health
21 services to participate in a standardized, secure on-line health care
22 information exchange program.

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