
**Health Care & Wellness
Committee**

HB 1095

Brief Description: Implementing the part D drug copayment program.

Sponsors: Representatives Barlow, Hinkle, Appleton, Green, Ormsby, Schual-Berke, Cody, Blake, B. Sullivan, Hurst, O'Brien, Clibborn, Morrell, Conway, Kenney, Linville, Rolfes, Moeller and Dunn; by request of Governor Gregoire.

Brief Summary of Bill

- The Department of Social and Health Services may offer Medicare Part D copayment coverage to individuals who are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, subject to available funds.

Work Session: 1/8/07.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

Congress passed and the President signed the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act in December, 2003. It required that as of January 1, 2006 individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid must receive their prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D and be assessed a copay on each prescription they fill in an amount between \$1 and \$5. Prior to this change these individuals received their prescription drug coverage through the Medicaid program and did not make any copay. There are approximately 100,000 individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The Governor's 2007-09 biennial budget submittal assumes approximately \$14 million general fund-state will be expended to provide copayment coverage for the dual eligible population.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Department of Social and Health Services is authorized to offer Medicare Part D co-payment coverage to individuals who are eligible for medical assistance or the medically needy program and Medicare, subject to available funds.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 1/10/07.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.