

**SB 5756 - DIGEST**

Declares that, simplifying health care financing and eliminating administrative waste inherent in multiple insurance plans can create sufficient savings to extend health care coverage to all residents and enhance fairness in the system.

Asserts that the people of the state of Washington declare their intent to create a framework and process to involve the citizens of Washington state in the creation of a single financing entity called the Washington health security trust. Through public hearings, research, and consensus building, the trust will accomplish the following goals: (1) Provide fair, simple, and accountable health care financing for all Washington residents using a single health care financing entity;

(2) Cover a comprehensive package of effective and necessary personal health services;

(3) Make health care coverage independent from employment;

(4) Eliminate excessive administrative costs resulting from the current fragmented system of multiple insurers;

(5) Generate savings sufficient to ensure coverage for all Washington residents;

(6) Integrate current publicly sponsored health programs into the health security trust;

(7) Preserve choice of providers for Washington residents;

(8) Protect patient rights;

(9) Keep clinical decisions in the hands of health professionals and patients, rather than administrative personnel;

(10) Promote health care quality; and

(11) Control excessive health care costs.

Abolishes the health care authority and its powers, duties, and functions are hereby transferred to the Washington health security trust. All references to the administrator or the health care authority in the Revised Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the chair or the Washington health security trust.

Appropriates the sum of fifty million dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the benefits account of the Washington health security trust for start-up moneys for purposes of this act during the period of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.