

SB 6221 - DIGEST

Finds that rising costs of health care are seriously threatening the physical and fiscal well-being of Washingtonians, the ability of Washington businesses to compete globally, farms to thrive, government to provide needed services, schools to educate, and local citizens to form new and successful business ventures.

Establishes the Washington health partnership as a public-private entity to provide comprehensive health coverage to all residents of the state of Washington. The Washington health partnership shall seek to attain the following goals: (1) By 2012, every resident of this state shall have access to affordable, comprehensive health care services;

(2) Services shall be provided through the private health care sector;

(3) The plan shall maintain and improve choice of health care providers and high quality health care services in this state; and

(4) The plan shall include cost-containment strategies that retain and assure affordable coverage for all Washingtonians.

Provides that the Washington health partnership is governed by a board composed of members nominated by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, and appointed for staggered six-year terms.

Provides that a person and the members of the person's immediate family are eligible to participate in the partnership if the person satisfies all of the following criteria: (1) The person has maintained his or her place of permanent residence in this state for at least twelve months;

(2) The person maintains a substantial presence in this state; and

(3) The person is not: (a) eligible for health care coverage from a foreign government or the federal government, including medicare and medicaid; (b) an inmate of a state correctional institution; or (c) placed or confined in, or committed to, an institution for the mentally ill or developmentally disabled.

Provides eligibility in the partnership, regardless of other requirements, to children under age eighteen and pregnant women residing in the state, public employees, and certain people receiving health coverage under a collective bargaining agreement.

Requires that the partnership shall implement outreach and education efforts to facilitate informed enrollment.

Declares that the partnership shall establish a health care program that will take effect on January 1, 2010. The program shall provide a standardized set of covered services.

Provides that the partnership shall annually solicit sealed premium bids from competing networks for the purpose of offering health care coverage to enrollees in the Washington health partnership.