
SENATE BILL 5191

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs and Benton

Read first time 01/15/09. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance.

1 AN ACT Relating to noninsurance benefits included in life insurance
2 policies; adding a new section to chapter 48.23 RCW; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 48.24 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.23 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) A life insurer may include the following noninsurance benefits
8 as part of a policy of individual life insurance, with the prior
9 approval of the commissioner:

10 (a) Will preparation services;

11 (b) Financial planning and estate planning services;

12 (c) Probate and estate settlement services; and

13 (d) Such other services as the commissioner may identify by rule.

14 (2) The commissioner may adopt rules to ensure disclosure of the
15 noninsurance benefits permitted under this section, including but not
16 limited to guidelines concerning the provision of the coverage.

17 (3) Those providing the services listed in subsection (1) of this
18 section must be appropriately licensed.

1 (4) This section does not require the commissioner to approve any
2 particular proposed noninsurance benefit. The commissioner may
3 disapprove any proposed noninsurance benefit that the commissioner
4 determines may tend to promote or facilitate the violation of any other
5 section of this title.

6 (5) This section does not expand, limit, or otherwise affect the
7 authority and ethical obligations of those who are authorized by the
8 state supreme court to practice law in this state. This section does
9 not limit the prohibition against the unauthorized practice of law
10 under chapter 2.48 RCW.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.24 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) A life insurer may include the following noninsurance benefits
14 as part of a policy or certificate of group life insurance, with the
15 prior approval of the commissioner:

- 16 (a) Will preparation services;
- 17 (b) Financial planning and estate planning services;
- 18 (c) Probate and estate settlement services; and
- 19 (d) Such other services as the commissioner may identify by rule.

20 (2) The commissioner may adopt rules to regulate the disclosure of
21 noninsurance benefits permitted under this section, including but not
22 limited to guidelines regarding the coverage provided under the policy
23 or certificate of insurance.

24 (3) Those providing the services listed in subsection (1) of this
25 section must be appropriately licensed.

26 (4) This section does not require the commissioner to approve any
27 particular proposed noninsurance benefit. The commissioner may
28 disapprove any proposed noninsurance benefit that the commissioner
29 determines may tend to promote or facilitate the violation of any other
30 section of this title.

31 (5) This section does not expand, limit, or otherwise affect the
32 authority and ethical obligations of those who are authorized by the
33 state supreme court to practice law in this state. This section does
34 not limit the prohibition against the unauthorized practice of law
35 under chapter 2.48 RCW.

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