
SENATE BILL 5730

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Pflug, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/29/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhanced federal financing of health coverage;
2 adding new sections to chapter 74.09 RCW; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 41.05 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 74.09 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall submit a request to the federal department
8 of health and human services to expand and revise the medical
9 assistance program as codified in Title XIX of the federal social
10 security act. The department shall take such actions as may be
11 necessary to access federal financial participation for low-income
12 adults at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level.
13 To the extent permitted under federal law, the program revisions must
14 reflect the following policy considerations:

15 (a) The establishment of a single eligibility standard for low-
16 income persons at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty
17 level, or if not permitted, expansion of the categorical eligibility to
18 include additional adults;

1 (b) The delivery of all low-income coverage programs as one
2 program, with a common core benefit package that may be similar to the
3 basic health benefit package or alternative benefit package that may be
4 approved by the secretary of the federal department of health and human
5 services, including the option of supplemental coverage for select
6 categorical groups like children, and the aged, blind, and disabled;

7 (c) A program design to include creative and innovative approaches
8 such as, but not limited to: Coverage for preventive services with
9 incentives to use appropriate preventive care; cost-sharing options;
10 use of care management and care coordination programs to prompt better
11 coordination of medical and behavioral health services; application of
12 an innovative predictive risk model to better target care management
13 services; and mandatory enrollment in managed care, as may be
14 necessary;

15 (d) The ability to impose enrollment limits or benefit design
16 changes for eligibility groups that were not eligible under the Title
17 XIX state plan in effect at the date of the waiver application.

18 (2) The department shall hold stakeholder discussions to allow
19 refinement and public comment on the proposal.

20 (3) Upon development of the proposal, the department and the health
21 care authority shall identify statutory changes that may be necessary
22 to ensure successful and timely implementation of an apple health
23 program for adults.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 (1) The department shall submit a Title XXI state plan amendment to
27 the federal department of health and human services that would define
28 coverage for children between two hundred and two hundred-fifty percent
29 of the federal poverty level as benefits provided under the Title XIX
30 state plan, and coverage for children up to three hundred percent of
31 the federal poverty level as coverage under section 2103 of Title XXI.

32 (2) The department shall work with the department of health to
33 maximize the state's ability to access the federal vaccines for
34 children program.

35 (3) The department shall submit a Title XXI state plan amendment or
36 waiver to the federal department of health and human services to allow

1 Title XIX children to participate in the department's employer-
2 sponsored program, as may be necessary.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 To the extent that federal funding becomes available for the
6 operation of a health insurance exchange mechanism to facilitate access
7 to health insurance coverage for individuals and small businesses, the
8 health care authority may seek such funding to support operation of an
9 exchange as authorized in federal law.

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