
SENATE BILL 5981

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator Keiser

Read first time 02/11/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to diagnostic imaging services; and adding a new
2 chapter to Title 70 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

6 (1) "Advanced diagnostic imaging services" means magnetic resonance
7 imaging services, computed tomography services, positron emission
8 tomography services, and cardiac nuclear medicine services.

9 (2) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

10 (3) "Payor" means public purchasers and carriers licensed under
11 chapters 48.21, 48.41, 48.44, 48.46, and 48.62 RCW.

12 (4) "Public purchaser" means the department of social and health
13 services, the department of health, the department of labor and
14 industries, the authority, and the Washington state health insurance
15 pool.

16 (5) "State purchased health care" has the same meaning as in RCW
17 41.05.011.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The speaker of the house of
2 representatives and the majority leader of the senate shall convene a
3 work group to analyze and identify nationally accepted best practice
4 guidelines or protocols applicable to advanced diagnostic imaging
5 services and any decision and support tools available to implement the
6 guidelines or protocols.

7 (2) The work group shall consist of the following members appointed
8 jointly by the speaker of the house and the majority leader of the
9 senate:

10 (a) One member of the authority's health technology clinical
11 committee;

12 (b) One representative of the Washington state medical association;

13 (c) One representative of the Washington state radiological
14 society;

15 (d) One representative of the Puget Sound health alliance; and

16 (e) One representative of the Washington health care forum.

17 (3) The work group shall:

18 (a) No later than November 15, 2009, identify nationally accepted
19 best practice guidelines or protocols applicable to advanced diagnostic
20 imaging services, and decision and support tools to implement the
21 guidelines or protocols, to be used by all state purchased health care
22 programs. When identifying the guidelines or protocols, the work group
23 may consult with organizations such as the Minnesota institute for
24 clinical systems improvement; and

25 (b) Explore the feasibility of mandating the use of the guidelines
26 or protocols for all payors in the state by January 1, 2011, for the
27 reimbursement of advanced diagnostic imaging services.

28 (4) Staff support to the work group shall be provided by the office
29 of program research and senate committee services.

30 (5) The expenses of the work group shall be paid jointly by the
31 senate and the house of representatives. Work group expenditures are
32 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
33 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

34 (6) The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to
35 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature no later
36 than November 15, 2009.

37 (7) The work group shall expire on January 31, 2010.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** No later than January 1, 2010, the authority
2 shall implement for all state purchased health care programs the
3 nationally accepted best practice guidelines or protocols applicable to
4 advanced diagnostic imaging services, and the decision and support
5 tools to implement the guidelines or protocols, identified under
6 section 2 of this act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Any current or future time frames,
8 procedures, rules, regulations, or guidance regarding accreditation
9 requirements for advanced diagnostic imaging services established in,
10 or promulgated pursuant to, section 135(a) of the medicare improvements
11 for patients and providers act of 2008, shall also be applicable to any
12 person or entity in this state not already subject to its provisions
13 that receives payment for the furnishing of the technical component of
14 advanced diagnostic imaging services as defined under that act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
16 a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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