

**SB 5898 - DIGEST**

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Declares an intent to: (1) Preserve medical coverage for eligible enrollees in state-funded medical assistance programs while transforming the model of delivery, the financing mechanism, and the accessibility of such programs; and

(2) Fund only the most critical publicly funded medical assistance programs within the boundaries of current revenue projections.

Finds that it is necessary to temporarily adjust the state share of spending on other health benefit programs, including the state employee, school employee, and retiree benefits to better reflect the difficult budget choices being made in every department and agency of state government while allowing the flexibility of state employees to select different benefit designs that would present no additional financial burden.

Creates the Washington state apple health community care council as an emergency working group within the department of social and health services to work to preserve critical publicly funded medical assistance programs that provide medical coverage to families and adults while providing a solution for a single entry way for all medical programs available to the low-income populations in Washington state.