

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHCR 4404

As of March 15, 2011

Brief Description: Continuing the work of the joint select committee on health reform implementation.

Sponsors: House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Schmick, Cody, Hinkle and Frockt).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/04/11, 92-5.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 3/14/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Mich'l Needham (786-7442)

Background: The 2010 Legislature created the Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation (JSC) to allow review and discussion of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which was passed in March 2010. PPACA includes a number of provisions that must be developed and implemented by states.

The JSC was co-chaired by the chairs of the health committees in the Senate and House of Representatives, with two additional members from each caucus. The JSC formed advisory committees to focus on specific topic areas, including health care workforce development, insurance changes and the insurance exchange, and low-income coverage issues.

The legislation creating the JSC expires June 30, 2011.

Summary of Bill: The Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation (JSC) is continued. The JSC will consist of the chairs of the health committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, two additional members of the Senate and two additional members of the House, one appointed from each caucus. The Governor will be invited to appoint a non-voting liaison member.

The co-chairs will be selected by the membership of the committee, with one co-chair from the Senate and one co-chair from the House who may not be from the same political caucus of the Legislature. The co-chairs may direct the formation of advisory committees to focus on specific topic areas such as insurance regulation, access to and expansion of public and

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private programs, cost containment, and workforce issues. Interested stakeholders and experts may be invited to advise the committee.

The JSC must establish an advisory committee to provide advice and recommendations to the Department of Social and Health Services and the Health Care Authority in the development of its implementation plan to coordinate the purchase and delivery of acute care, long-term care, and behavioral health services.

Participation in the JSC is without compensation. The JSC expires on or before June 30, 2014.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: Yes.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: There was an accidental drafting error in the floor amendment that changed the number of members for the committee, and we hope the Senate will restore the original membership numbers. The new advisory committee to review the implementation plan for the DSHS-HCA single state agency merger bill (SHB 1738) was a request of the long-term care advocates to provide a public venue for reviewing the program connections when Medicaid is pulled from DSHS. It is to ensure there is coordination with other services like long-term care. The Joint Select Committee provides an important opportunity for stakeholder input, and legislative oversight with bipartisan involvement.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Cody, sponsor; Patrick Connor, National Federation of Independent Businesses; Donna Steward, Association of Washington Businesses; Mel Sorensen, America's Health Insurance Plans, Washington Association of Health Underwriters, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors; Scott Dahlman, Washington Farm Bureau.