

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6546

As of February 1, 2012

Title: An act relating to preventative care and screenings for children in medicaid managed care contracts.

Brief Description: Concerning preventative care and screenings for children in medicaid managed care contracts.

Sponsors: Senators Frockt, Conway, Keiser and Kline.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/01/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Mich'l Needham (786-7442)

Background: The American Academy of Pediatrics released comprehensive guidelines for the provision of health services to infants, children, and adolescents, known as Bright Futures. The guidelines have been supported by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration and were included in the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) in reference to the coverage of preventive health services for infants, children and adolescents. The preventive health services must be included in coverage with no cost-sharing.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) contracts with managed care plans for Medicaid services. Legislation passed in 2011 requires the agency to include language in the contracts regarding new provider reimbursement methods that reward health homes. The new additions to contract language must not result in rates that exceed those that would be paid absent the contract provisions.

Summary of Bill: HCA must include additional language in their managed care contracts for Medicaid services that require the implementation of preventative care and screenings for infants, children, and adolescents as outlined in the Bright Futures guidelines, as referenced in the federal ACA.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 1, 2012.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: It is important to expand preventive services for children. This bill seeks to improve the quality of health care for children and bring the standard of care for pediatric services up to the standard used in 47 other states. Preventive care saves lives and saves costs down the road, while promoting higher quality of care. The standards of care in Washington are not equal to those used in other states and pediatric interns may find it attractive to practice in a state that has more comprehensive standards. We believe this will improve vaccination rates and help us to manage patient care and see children more frequently. The state would cover additional preventive visits at 30 months of age and yearly exams after age six; pay for developmental screens at 9, 18, and 24-30 months; and pay for autism screening at 18 and 24 months.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Frockt, prime sponsor; Dr. Beth Harvey, Dr. James Polo, Cat Delostrinos, WA Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics.