
SENATE BILL 5912

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2011 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Pflug, Kohl-Welles, and Kline

Read first time 03/31/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to the expansion of family planning services to two
2 hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level; amending RCW
3 74.09.659; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The legislature finds that:

9 (1) Over half of all births in Washington state are covered by
10 public programs;

11 (2) Research has demonstrated that children of unintended
12 pregnancies receive less prenatal care and are at higher risk for
13 premature birth, low birth weight, neurological disorders, and poor
14 academic performance;

15 (3) In Washington state, over fifty percent of unintended
16 pregnancies occur in women age twenty-five years and older;

17 (4) Washington state's take charge program has been successful in
18 helping women avoid unintended pregnancies; however, when the caseload

1 declined due to federally mandated changes, the rate of unintended
2 pregnancies increased dramatically;

3 (5) Expanding family planning services to cover women to two
4 hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level would align that
5 program's eligibility standard with income eligibility for publicly
6 funded maternity care service; and

7 (6) Such an expansion would reduce unintended pregnancies and
8 associated costs to the state.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.09.659 and 2009 c 545 s 5 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) The department shall continue to submit applications for the
12 family planning waiver program.

13 (2) The department shall submit a request to the federal department
14 of health and human services to amend the current family planning
15 waiver program as follows:

16 (a) Provide coverage for sexually transmitted disease testing and
17 treatment;

18 (b) Return to the eligibility standards used in 2005 including, but
19 not limited to, citizenship determination based on declaration or
20 matching with federal social security databases, insurance eligibility
21 standards comparable to 2005, and confidential service availability for
22 minors and survivors of domestic and sexual violence; and

23 (c) (~~Within available funds,~~) By September 30, 2011, submit an
24 application to increase income eligibility to two hundred fifty percent
25 of the federal poverty level, to correspond with income eligibility for
26 publicly funded maternity care services.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Upon implementation of the expansion
28 directed in RCW 74.09.659, the office of financial management shall
29 reduce general fund--state allotments for the medical assistance
30 program by one million five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year
31 2012 and by three million dollars for fiscal year 2013. The amounts
32 reduced from allotments shall be placed in reserve status and remain
33 unexpended.

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