

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1499

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care & Wellness

Title: An act relating to the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly.

Brief Description: Concerning the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly.

Sponsors: Representatives Jinkins, Harris, Cody, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Roberts, Fey and Pollet.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 2/12/13, 2/15/13 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to allow clients enrolled in the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to elect to remain in the PACE despite improved functional status.
- Directs the DSHS to develop and implement a PACE education plan for case managers and other staff who make eligibility determinations.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Jinkins, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Hope, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Angel, Clibborn, Green, Harris, Manweller, Morrell, Riccelli, Ross, Short, Tharinger and Van De Wege.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

The Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is one of several long-term care services programs offered by the Department of Social and Health Services to help elderly clients remain in the community. The PACE is a capitated benefit that may be offered under a state's Medicaid program. The PACE integrates necessary long-term care, medical

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services, mental health services, and alcohol and substance abuse treatment services. The PACE is available to people who:

1. are (a) age 65 or older or (b) age 55 or older and blind or disabled;
2. need nursing facility level of care;
3. live within a PACE provider's designated service area; and
4. are not enrolled in any other Medicare or Medicaid prepayment plan or optional benefit.

Individuals enrolled in the PACE must agree to receive services exclusively through the PACE provider and its network of providers. The available long-term care services under the PACE include care coordination, home and community-based services, and nursing facility care. The medical care services available under the PACE include primary medical care, vision care, end of life care, restorative therapies, oxygen therapy, audiology, transportation, podiatry, durable medical equipment, dental care, pharmaceutical products, immunizations and vaccines, and emergency care and inpatient hospital stays.

Individuals may voluntarily end enrollment in the PACE at any time. Under state law, individuals may also be involuntarily disenrolled from the PACE under several circumstances, including if they no longer meet the nursing facility level of care requirement.

Summary of Bill:

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) must allow long-term care clients who are enrolled in the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to remain in the PACE, if the client so chooses, despite having improved status related to functional criteria for nursing facility level of care.

The DSHS must develop and implement a coordinated plan for educating others about the PACE site operations. The plan must include a strategy to assure that case managers and other staff who make eligibility determinations discuss with potentially eligible clients, the PACE as an option and the potential benefits of participating. The plan must also require that referrals for an evaluation are made to a PACE provider for all clients who are eligible for the Community Options Program Entry System waiver program and who live in a PACE service area. Lastly, the plan must require additional and ongoing training related to informing clients of the benefits of remaining in the PACE. The DSHS must identify a private entity that operates PACE program sites in Washington to provide the training at no cost to the state.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) keeps people out of nursing homes. The program costs about 54 percent of what a day in a nursing home would be. This bill will put more people in the program and save more money. This bill will avoid the situation in which people improve to the point that they are no longer eligible for the PACE and lose the services that had been keeping them healthy. The Department of Social and Health Services has not been talking to patients about the PACE as an option. Once case managers are trained in the PACE, adding this to the discussion of options should be relatively seamless. The PACE assumes all of the costs for the clients in their program which provides an incentive to the PACE provider to see high-risk clients stabilize and get healthier and prevent more costly services. This is a program that is a model for the changes that everyone wants to see in the way that health care is delivered because it is evidence-based, preventative, and patient focused. The PACE has excellent outcomes compared to Medicare. This bill provides access to the PACE for all eligible beneficiaries. Private providers are willing to provide the training at no cost to the state. When patients are released from the PACE, they can destabilize and become much sicker.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Jinkins, prime sponsor; Kristen Rogers, Providence Health Services; and Susan Tuller, Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.