
SENATE BILL 5918

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senator Ericksen

Read first time 04/22/13. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to requesting and implementing a federal waiver to
2 allow Washington to expand the medicaid program through private
3 insurance markets; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

7 (a) On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the
8 patient protection and affordable care act and the health care and
9 education reconciliation act of 2010, collectively known as the
10 affordable care act;

11 (b) The affordable care act requires that states expand their
12 medicaid programs to include coverage for all individuals whose incomes
13 are at or below one hundred thirty-three percent of the federal poverty
14 guidelines;

15 (c) The United States supreme court has found that the medicaid
16 expansion aspect of the affordable care act shifts medicaid from a
17 program for the neediest in society to a comprehensive plan to provide
18 universal health insurance coverage;

1 (d) The state has made great progress in establishing a Washington
2 health benefit exchange to serve people over one hundred thirty-three
3 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as a marketplace for
4 insurance as required under the affordable care act.

5 (2) Individuals who will be newly eligible for medicaid under the
6 affordable care act deserve the same choices in their health care
7 coverage as those being served in the Washington health benefit
8 exchange will have. Making the Washington health benefit exchange
9 available to the thousands of people in Washington who will be forced
10 to receive health care through the medicaid expansion will give
11 individuals a choice in their health care and allow them to maintain
12 the same health insurance and health care providers if their income
13 changes.

14 (3) The legislature intends to require the health care authority to
15 work with the Washington health benefit exchange to develop and request
16 a waiver from the United States department of health and human services
17 to provide health insurance to those individuals who are newly eligible
18 for medicaid through the Washington health benefit exchange.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) By July 1, 2014, the authority shall apply to the secretary of
22 the United States department of health and human services for a waiver
23 to authorize Washington state to enroll individuals at or below a
24 modified adjusted gross income of one hundred thirty-three percent of
25 the federal poverty guidelines in the Washington health benefit
26 exchange, rather than medicaid. The waiver must allow Washington
27 residents at or below a modified adjusted gross income of one hundred
28 thirty-three percent of the federal poverty guidelines to receive
29 premium assistance and cost-sharing subsidies to allow them to purchase
30 health insurance through the Washington health benefit exchange. The
31 waiver must combine federal and state sources of funds up to the same
32 amount and the same proportion that would have been used had the
33 enrollees been covered through medicaid.

34 (2) The authority, in collaboration with the Washington health
35 benefit exchange, shall submit a report to the legislature by December

1 1, 2013, with details of the operational and fiscal elements of the
2 waiver proposal.

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