
Health Care & Wellness Committee

ESSB 5145

Brief Description: Concerning the health technology clinical committee membership and rotating experts.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Senators Dammeier, Frockt, Becker, Bailey, Rivers and Brown).

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Requires at least one member of the Health Technology Clinical Committee (Committee) to be appointed from nominations submitted by the Washington State Medical Association or the Washington State Osteopathic Medical Association.
- Requires that any rotating clinical expert selected to advise the Committee be a non-voting member.

Hearing Date: 2/19/16

Staff: Ariele Landstrom (786-7190).

Background:

The Health Care Authority (Authority) coordinates the Health Technology Assessment Program, which reviews evidence-based reports about the safety and efficacy of medical devices and procedures, medical equipment, and diagnostic tests.

The Authority selects health technologies to be reviewed in consultation with the Department of Social and Health Services and the Department of Labor and Industries (participating agencies) and the Health Technology Clinical Committee (Committee). Upon selecting a health technology for review, the Authority must contract for a systematic, evidence-based assessment of the technology's safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness.

For each health technology selected, the Committee determines the conditions under which it will be included as a covered benefit in participating agencies' programs, as well as the criteria

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for the agencies to use in determining whether the technology is medically necessary. The Committee is required to consider evidence regarding the safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness of the technology and to provide an opportunity for public comment. In addition, it may establish ad hoc temporary advisory groups for specialized expertise or input from enrollees or clients.

The Committee includes 11 members: six physicians and five other health professionals who use health technology. Two members of the Committee must have professional experience treating women, children, elderly persons, and people with diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. The members are appointed by the Authority, in consultation with participating agencies. Committee members may not contract with or be employed by a health technology manufacturer or a participating agency in the 18 months before their appointment, are immune from civil liability for official acts performed in good faith as Committee members, and must be compensated in accordance with a personal services contract. The Committee is not a state agency, but its meetings are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Summary of Bill:

At least one member of the Committee must be appointed from nominations submitted by the Washington State Medical Association or the Washington State Osteopathic Association. In addition, any rotating clinical expert selected to advise the Committee on a health technology must be a non-voting member of the Committee.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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