

2SSB 5540 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Health Care & Wellness

NOT CONSIDERED 01/05/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state currently provides  
4 dental coverage for enrollees in medicaid apple health coverage.  
5 Dental services have been successfully provided for children in part  
6 due to: Higher reimbursement rates for services provided to children  
7 and through a public-private partnership with the access to baby and  
8 child dentistry program that recruits and trains dentists to provide  
9 preventive care to medicaid children, reduced barriers for low-income  
10 families in accessing care with outreach, and enhanced reimbursement  
11 for services provided to children from birth through age five.

12 Adults in medicaid apple health have more difficulty accessing  
13 dental care. As a statewide average, only twenty-two percent of apple  
14 health adults utilized care in fiscal year 2015. Utilization rates  
15 vary across the state, ranging from 7.6 percent to 31.4 percent.

16 A growing body of research indicates oral health is connected to  
17 systemic health. Pregnant women are more susceptible to oral health  
18 problems due to changes in their bodies related to pregnancy. Dental  
19 disease may cause complications during pregnancy, such as  
20 preeclampsia and gestational diabetes. Adults with diabetes are also  
21 at high risk for oral health problems. The chronic inflammation and  
22 infection associated with gum disease can result in serious health  
23 complications, including heart disease, kidney disease, blindness,  
24 and amputation.

25 Studies have found significant medical savings when patients with  
26 chronic conditions like diabetes and pregnant women received  
27 treatment for gum disease. The legislature therefore finds that the  
28 state should invest in a pilot program to test enhanced dental  
29 benefits for medicaid apple health adults with diabetes and pregnant  
30 women. Through this pilot program, the legislature intends to reduce  
31 the prevalence of preeclampsia and gestational diabetes in pregnant

1 women and the incidence of heart disease, kidney disease, blindness,  
2 and amputation in adults with diabetes.

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

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
6 specific purpose, the health care authority must begin a three-year  
7 statewide pilot program, named oral health connections, with the  
8 Washington dental service foundation, modeled after the access to  
9 baby and child dentistry program, to test enhanced dental benefits  
10 for medicaid apple health adults with diabetes and pregnant women.  
11 The pilot program's aim is to better integrate medical and oral  
12 health care to improve health outcomes and control chronic disease.  
13 The pilot program must include enhanced reimbursement rates for  
14 participating dental providers and an increase in the allowable  
15 number of periodontal treatments to up to four per calendar year. The  
16 additional visits for periodontal treatments apply to all adults with  
17 diabetes and pregnant women regardless of the location of the  
18 service. The Washington dental service foundation shall partner with  
19 the agency and provide wraparound services to link patients to care.  
20 Services include, but are not limited to, outreach to and support for  
21 medical providers, dental providers, care coordinators, accountable  
22 communities of health, managed care organizations, and eligible  
23 medicaid enrollees, in order to connect people with diabetes and  
24 pregnant women with the oral health care they need.

25 (2) The health care authority and Washington dental service  
26 foundation shall jointly develop the statewide program, subject to  
27 the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose.  
28 The authority and foundation shall provide joint progress reports to  
29 the appropriate committees of the legislature each December 1st  
30 commencing after implementation of the first year of the pilot  
31 program. The final report shall include an assessment of the  
32 effectiveness of the pilot program related to reducing health care  
33 costs and improving health outcomes for pregnant women as related to  
34 preeclampsia and gestational diabetes and for adults with diabetes as  
35 related to heart disease, kidney disease, blindness, and amputation.

36 (3) This section expires June 30, 2022."

37 Correct the title.

EFFECT: States the legislature's intent that the pilot program reduce the prevalence of preeclampsia and gestational diabetes in pregnant women and the incidence of heart disease, kidney disease, blindness, and amputation in adults with diabetes. Requires the final report to include an assessment of the effectiveness of the pilot program at reducing health care costs and improving health outcomes for pregnant women and adults with diabetes.

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