

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 2530

As of February 15, 2018

Title: An act relating to foster youth health care benefits.

Brief Description: Concerning foster youth health care benefits.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Graves, Caldier, Fey, Stonier, Kagi, McBride, Wylie and Doglio).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/08/18, 94-4.

Committee Activity: Health & Long Term Care: 2/15/18.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows former foster children to continue coverage in the integrated managed health care plan for foster children for up to 12 months following reunification with their parents or guardian.
- Extends the date by which behavioral health services must be fully integrated into the managed health care plan for foster children by three months.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

Staff: Evan Klein (786-7483)

Background: The Health Care Authority (Authority) administers the Medicaid program which is a state-federal program that pays for health care for low-income state residents who meet certain eligibility criteria. Persons under 19 years old who are in foster care and are under the legal responsibility of the state or a tribe located within the state are eligible for Medicaid. Persons under 21 years old who are either in foster care or eligible for continued foster care services may also enroll in Medicaid. In addition, persons between 19 and 26 years old may receive Medicaid if they either were in foster care and enrolled in Medicaid on their eighteenth birthday or were older than 18 when their foster care assistance ended.

Since 2016 the Authority has provided Medicaid services to foster youth through a single statewide managed care plan known as Apple Health Core Connections. The plan provides all physical health care benefits as well as lower-intensity outpatient mental health benefits.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Inpatient mental health services and higher-level outpatient mental health services are provided through behavioral health organizations until October 1, 2018, at which point Apple Health Core Connections must offer the services.

Summary of Bill: The date for behavioral health services to be integrated into the managed health care plan for foster children is extended from October 1, 2018, to January 1, 2019.

A child under 18 years old who was in foster care and is no longer a dependent child may continue enrollment in the integrated managed health care plan for foster children for up to 12 months following reunification with the child's parents or guardian. The child must meet the eligibility standards for medical assistance coverage and must have been in foster care under the responsibility of the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, or an Indian tribe.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2018.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The goal of this legislation is to bolster reunification. The last thing on a parent's mind when they are reunified with their children is health care. We want to make sure children maintain their prescriptions and their providers when they are reunified. The substitute bill eliminates the fiscal impact in the underlying bill. This bill aligns the implementation date for integration of the foster care program with the rest of Medicaid. This bill will provide incredible support to children in the foster care program. Post-reunification can be a vulnerable time for children in the foster care system. This transition program will help parents to be informed and take an active role in their child's health care. Coordinated Care has done a fantastic job preparing the foster care health systems for integration.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Tana Senn, Prime Sponsor; Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children; Andrea Davis, Coordinated Care; Sara Robitaille, Coordinated Care.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.