

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6549

C 156 L 18
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Expanding the access to baby and child dentistry program to serve children with disabilities.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Rolfes, Cleveland, Conway, Saldaña and Sheldon).

Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
House Committee on Appropriations

Background: The Health Care Authority (Authority) administers the state-federal Medicaid program that pays for health care for low-income state residents who meet certain eligibility criteria. Benefits under the program vary according to a person's eligibility category which is determined by several factors, including income, age, health condition, and disability status. Dental services for Medicaid clients are provided through a fee-for-service arrangement in which the dentist bills the Authority directly.

Children under six years old who are enrolled in Medicaid may participate in the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program at the Authority which provides enhanced fees to participating health care providers who provide additional services to participating children. The Washington Dental Service Foundation provides management services, funding, technical assistance, and provider recruitment and training for the ABCD program. The objective of the ABCD program is to identify and remove obstacles related to early preventive treatment. The additional services include family oral health education, application of fluoride, oral evaluations, restorations, therapeutic pulpotomies, amalgam and resin restoration on primary teeth, and services related to crowns. Participating providers include ABCD program-certified dental providers and other health care providers who have been approved by the Authority, including physicians, osteopathic physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and osteopathic physician assistants.

Summary: The Authority must expand the ABCD program to include children with disabilities as eligible clients through age 12. Dentists and hygienists must complete a course on treating children with disabilities in order to receive the enhanced ABCD fee for providing services to eligible children with disabilities.

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.

The Authority in consultation with any organizations administering the program must report to the Legislature on the outcomes of the program by December 15 of each year.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0
House	98	0

Effective: June 7, 2018