
SENATE BILL 5984

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 3rd Special Session

By Senators Kuderer, Wellman, and Frockt

Prefiled 07/20/17. Read first time 07/20/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to health care for all state
2 residents with apple health on the health benefit exchange; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The health care authority, in consultation with the health
8 benefit exchange, must seek any necessary waivers of federal law to
9 allow apple health to be offered as an option for individuals who are
10 otherwise ineligible for medicaid to purchase coverage through the
11 health benefit exchange. The apple health public option must offer a
12 comprehensive benefit package with the essential health benefits,
13 including reproductive care, and an actuarial value of the silver
14 benefit package with the related cost sharing.

15 (2) The apple health option is intended to provide an additional
16 health insurance option for state residents purchasing individual
17 coverage, to ensure statewide access for all residents. To the extent
18 allowed by federal law, the plan should seek to maximize federal
19 funding with access to advance premium tax credits and cost-sharing
20 subsidies that may be available. It is the intent that apple health
21 be available alongside the exchange qualified health plans with

1 financial assistance within the same income standards, and the option
2 to purchase coverage without financial assistance above the income
3 requirements set for premium tax credits.

4 (3) The authority must procure the apple health option to be
5 offered by one or more managed care plans. To the extent allowed by
6 federal law the authority must explore options to combine the risk
7 pool for the new apple health public option with apple health. The
8 authority and the exchange must advise the legislature if the
9 procurement of the public option necessitates any statutory changes,
10 such as the definition of a qualified health plan. The authority must
11 share quarterly progress reports with the legislature on the status
12 of discussions for waivers, program development, and financing
13 estimates.

14 (4) To ensure a robust provider network the authority must
15 increase provider reimbursement rates above the medicaid managed care
16 rates for all providers participating in apple health and the apple
17 health public option on the exchange.

18 (5) The director, in consultation with the governor and the joint
19 committee on health care oversight, must explore options to form
20 regional risk pools or regional purchasing options with Oregon and
21 California.

--- END ---