

---

HOUSE BILL 1697

---

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Macri, Lekanoff, Thai, Jinkins, Dolan, Robinson, Pettigrew, Peterson, Stonier, Valdez, Ortiz-Self, Wylie, Doglio, Riccelli, Santos, Appleton, Ryu, Stanford, Bergquist, Goodman, Pollet, Gregerson, and Frame

Read first time 01/28/19. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to health coverage for young adults; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Individuals with health insurance coverage have better health  
6 outcomes than those who lack coverage. Uninsured individuals are more  
7 likely to be in poor health and more likely to delay seeking or go  
8 without needed health care services, which ultimately drives up the  
9 cost of care;

10 (b) In recognition of the value of a healthy next generation,  
11 Washington has extended apple health coverage to all children  
12 residing in the state, regardless of where they were born. Federal  
13 law, however, unjustly excludes undocumented immigrants from  
14 receiving health coverage through apple health, so young adults  
15 without status age out of eligibility for apple health on their  
16 nineteenth birthday;

17 (c) Washington is home to more than one million immigrants who go  
18 to school, work, pay taxes, and contribute to our state's vibrant  
19 economy. This includes more than seventeen thousand recipients of the  
20 deferred action for childhood arrival program, young people who came  
21 to this country as children and have made their homes here;

1 (d) Under the affordable care act, young adults are eligible to  
2 remain on their parents' health plans until their twenty-sixth  
3 birthday. Similarly, young adult alumni of the foster care program  
4 are eligible for apple health coverage until they reach the age of  
5 twenty-six.

6 (2) As a matter of equity, the legislature therefore intends to  
7 improve the health of all young people in this state by extending  
8 eligibility for apple health to all low-income young adults,  
9 regardless of immigration status.

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

12 (1) The authority shall provide health coverage to individuals  
13 who:

14 (a) Are at least nineteen years old and no older than twenty-six  
15 years old;

16 (b) Have a countable income that is at or below one hundred  
17 thirty-three percent of the federal poverty level, adjusted for  
18 family size and determined annually by the federal department of  
19 health and human services;

20 (c) Are not incarcerated; and

21 (d) Are not eligible for categorically needy medical assistance  
22 as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan.

23 (2) The amount, scope, and duration of health care services  
24 provided to individuals under this section must be the same as that  
25 provided to individuals eligible for categorically needy medical  
26 assistance. The authority shall assure a seamless transition in  
27 coverage for individuals aging out of children's health coverage and  
28 use the same eligibility redetermination and appeals procedures as  
29 those provided for children's health coverage. The authority shall  
30 manage its application and renewal procedures so as to maximize  
31 enrollment of eligible individuals.

32 (3) The authority shall seek federal funding, as available, to  
33 defray state costs associated with providing coverage to persons  
34 under this section.

--- END ---