
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5704

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Randall, Cleveland, Conway, Das, Frockt, Hasegawa, Holy, Hunt, Keiser, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Robinson, Saldaña, Stanford, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring health carriers to reimburse
2 advanced registered nurse practitioners at the same rate as
3 physicians for the same services; amending RCW 41.05.017; adding a
4 new section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Given the gravity of the COVID-19 crisis
7 and the threat future pandemics present to the residents of
8 Washington, the legislature recognizes the importance of supporting
9 health care practitioners throughout the state. This act intends to
10 help maintain a sufficient number of health care providers,
11 especially in underserved and rural communities, by requiring health
12 carriers to reimburse advanced registered nurse practitioners and
13 physicians the same rate for providing the same health care services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) For health plans issued or renewed on or after January 1,
17 2023, a health carrier may not reimburse a contracted health care
18 practitioner who is an advanced registered nurse practitioner
19 licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW in an amount less than the allowed
20 amount that the health carrier would reimburse for the same service

1 if provided by a contracted provider who is a physician licensed
2 under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW in the same service area as defined
3 in WAC 284-43-0160.

4 (2) A health carrier may not reduce the reimbursement amount paid
5 to physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW to comply
6 with this section.

7 (3) The office of the insurance commissioner shall collect data
8 from insurers on the implementation of this act beginning January 1,
9 2023, and report back to the legislature, in the manner provided in
10 RCW 43.01.036, no later than January 1, 2024:

11 (a) The number of insurers who changed reimbursement rates in
12 response to this act;

13 (b) The number of advanced registered nurse practitioners whose
14 reimbursement rates were increased as a result of this act;

15 (c) The number of physicians whose reimbursement rates were
16 decreased as a result of this act; and

17 (d) The costs incurred by each insurer to implement this section.

18 (4) This section does not apply to advanced registered nurse
19 practitioners who are employees of a health maintenance organization
20 regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 41.05.017 and 2021 c 280 s 2 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Each health plan that provides medical insurance offered under
24 this chapter, including plans created by insuring entities, plans not
25 subject to the provisions of Title 48 RCW, and plans created under
26 RCW 41.05.140, are subject to the provisions of RCW 48.43.500,
27 70.02.045, 48.43.505 through 48.43.535, 48.43.537, 48.43.545,
28 48.43.550, 70.02.110, 70.02.900, 48.43.190, 48.43.083, 48.43.0128,
29 (~~and~~) chapter 48.49 RCW, and section 2 of this act.

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