
SENATE BILL 5632

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Cleveland, Conway, Hasegawa, Hunt, Kuderer, Lovelett, Stanford, Valdez, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/30/23. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting the health care of workers
2 exercising their right to participate in a labor dispute; adding a
3 new section to chapter 49.64 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 49.64
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) By January 1, 2024, the health benefit exchange created under
8 chapter 43.71 RCW must administer a worker health care premium
9 assistance program to help Washingtonians who lose employer-provided
10 health care coverage as a result of a labor dispute.

11 (2) Subject to the availability of state funding appropriated for
12 this specific purpose, a worker is eligible for the program created
13 in subsection (1) of this section if the individual:

14 (a) Provides a self-attestation regarding loss of minimum
15 essential health care coverage from an employer or joint labor
16 management trust fund as a result of a strike, lockout, or other
17 labor dispute;

18 (b) Enrolls in a silver standardized health care plan under RCW
19 43.71.095;

1 (c) Applies for and accepts all federal advance premium tax
2 credits for which the individual may be eligible before receiving any
3 state premium assistance;

4 (d) Is ineligible for minimum essential coverage through
5 medicare, a federal or state medical assistance program administered
6 by the health care authority under chapter 74.09 RCW, or for premium
7 assistance under RCW 43.71A.020; and

8 (e) Is otherwise eligible to purchase a qualified health plan
9 through the health benefit exchange.

10 (3) Subject to the state funding appropriated for this act, the
11 health benefit exchange must pay the total premium for individuals
12 eligible for the worker health care premium assistance program
13 created by this section, after all applicable federal and state
14 subsidies are applied.

15 (4) The health benefit exchange may disqualify a participant from
16 the program if the participant:

17 (a) No longer meets the eligibility criteria in subsection (2) of
18 this section;

19 (b) Fails, without good cause, to comply with procedural or
20 documentation requirements established by the health benefit exchange
21 in accordance with subsection (5) of this section;

22 (c) Fails, without good cause, to notify the health benefit
23 exchange of a change of address in a timely manner;

24 (d) Voluntarily withdraws from the program; or

25 (e) Performs an act, practice, or omission that constitutes
26 fraud.

27 (5) The health benefit exchange must establish:

28 (a) Procedural requirements for eligibility and continued
29 participation in any worker health care premium assistance program
30 under this section, including participant documentation requirements
31 that are necessary to administer the program; and

32 (b) Procedural requirements for facilitating payments to and from
33 carriers.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the
35 worker health care protection act.

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