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HOUSE BILL 1527

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Bergquist, Schmick, Thai, Reed, Macri, and Zahn

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to settlement demands or offers made prior to  
2 mandatory mediation of health care claims; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 7.70 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that litigation  
6 and claims against health care providers present challenges for both  
7 patients and health care providers alike, and the rising cost of  
8 medical malpractice insurance has created particular challenges for  
9 some physicians, particularly those in high-risk specialties such as  
10 obstetrics, anesthesiology, and emergency room practice. The answers  
11 to these problems are varied and complex, requiring comprehensive  
12 solutions that encourage making the civil justice system more  
13 understandable, fair, and efficient for all participants.

14 (2) It is in the interest of the legislature to prioritize  
15 patient safety as changes are made to address the toll of health care  
16 litigation on both patients and health care providers and to mitigate  
17 the increase of malpractice insurance premiums. The legislature  
18 previously established mandatory mediation of health care claims in  
19 the interest of providing appropriate incentives and opportunities to  
20 resolve cases in a manner that is fair, efficient, and streamlined  
21 for all parties prior to resorting to trial. The legislature has an

1 interest in promoting effective mediation of health care claims.  
2 Currently, in many cases, mandatory mediation does not occur until  
3 late in the litigation or shortly before trial, if at all.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 7.70 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 In an action subject to mandatory mediation pursuant to RCW  
7 7.70.100, a settlement demand or offer made by a party prior to  
8 mediation may not be set to expire prior to the parties' good faith  
9 attendance at the mediation.

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