
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1262

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Dyer, Backlund, Hymes, Casada and Cooke)

Read first time 03/16/95. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to health care reform; adding a new section to
2 chapter 44.44 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** WASHINGTON HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSION--
5 TRANSFERRED POWERS AND DUTIES. The Washington health services
6 commission is terminated on January 1, 1996. It is the intent of the
7 legislature that the commission's powers and duties are transferred as
8 follows, consistent with specific enabling statutes:

9 (1) To the Washington health care authority:

10 (a) Standard benefits package provisions;

11 (b) Standard point-of-service cost-sharing provisions;

12 (2) To the department of health:

13 (a) Health data provisions;

14 (b) Quality assurance provisions;

15 (c) Credentialing provisions;

16 (3) To the office of insurance commissioner:

17 (a) Health carrier provisions and related insurance provisions;

18 (b) Antitrust provisions;

19 (c) Standardized rating provisions.

1 (4) To the joint committee on health systems oversight, created by
2 section 6 of this act:

3 (a) Provisions relating to the general oversight of the
4 implementation of chapter 492, Laws of 1993, as amended;

5 (b) Provisions relating to monitoring the actual growth in total
6 annual health services costs.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** TRANSFER OF RECORDS, EQUIPMENT, FUNDS. All
8 reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or written
9 material in the possession of the Washington health services commission
10 shall be allocated in a manner prescribed by the office of financial
11 management. All cabinets, furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles,
12 and other tangible property used by the Washington health services
13 commission shall be allocated in a manner prescribed by the office of
14 financial management. All funds, credits, or other assets held by the
15 Washington health services commission shall be allocated in a manner
16 prescribed by the office of financial management.

17 Any appropriations made to the Washington health services
18 commission shall, on the effective date of this section, be allocated
19 in a manner prescribed by the legislature.

20 Whenever any question arises as to the transfer of any personnel,
21 funds, books, documents, records, papers, files, equipment, or other
22 tangible property used or held in the exercise of the powers and the
23 performance of the duties and functions transferred, the director of
24 financial management shall make a determination as to the proper
25 allocation and certify the same to the state agencies concerned.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES. All employees of the
27 Washington health services commission are transferred in the manner
28 prescribed by the office of financial management.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RULES AND BUSINESS. All rules and all
30 pending business before the Washington health services commission shall
31 be continued consistent with the authority transferred. All existing
32 contracts and obligations shall remain in full force and shall be
33 performed by the agency to which the related authority was transferred.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** VALIDITY OF PRIOR ACTS. The transfer of the
35 powers, duties, functions, and personnel of the Washington health

1 services commission shall not affect the validity of any act performed
2 prior to the effective date of this section.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 44.44 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SYSTEMS OVERSIGHT--MEMBERSHIP, TERMS,
6 LEADERSHIP. (1) There is hereby created a joint committee on health
7 systems oversight. The committee shall consist of: (a) Four members
8 of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, two of whom
9 shall be members of the majority party and two of whom shall be members
10 of the minority party; and (b) four members of the house of
11 representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
12 representatives, two of whom shall be members of the majority party and
13 two of whom shall be members of the minority party. Members of the
14 committee shall be appointed before the close of each regular session
15 during an odd-numbered year.

16 (2) Each member's term of office shall run from the close of the
17 session in which the member was appointed until the close of the next
18 regular session held in an odd-numbered year. If a successor is not
19 appointed during a session, the member's term shall continue until the
20 member is reappointed or a successor is appointed. The term of office
21 for a committee member who does not continue as a member of the senate
22 or house of representatives shall cease upon the convening of the next
23 session of the legislature during an odd-numbered year after the
24 member's appointment, or upon the member's resignation, whichever is
25 earlier. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment in
26 the same manner as described in subsection (1) of this section. All
27 such vacancies shall be filled from the same political party and from
28 the same house as the member whose seat was vacated.

29 (3) The committee shall elect a chair and a vice-chair. The chair
30 shall be a member of the senate in even-numbered years and a member of
31 the house of representatives in odd-numbered years.

32 (4) The committee shall have the following powers and duties:

33 (a) Oversee the implementation of chapter 492, Laws of 1993, as
34 amended, related chapters of the Revised Code of Washington,
35 activities related to pursuit of waivers from federal laws, and
36 activities related to state compliance with federal laws and
37 regulations;

1 (b) Periodically make recommendations to the appropriate committees
2 of the legislature and the governor regarding the scope, financing, and
3 delivery of standard benefits package or similar core benefits package
4 as established by law;

5 (c) By July 1, 1996, recommend to the appropriate committees of
6 legislature standards, recognized by the health science community, for
7 determining when a research procedure, treatment, device, drug, or
8 other health care service is as effective as the alternative standard
9 care;

10 (d) Comply with other specified provisions of law;

11 (e) Consistent with funds appropriated: Hire staff, who shall have
12 extensive experience in health reform activities in Washington state;
13 conduct or cause to be conducted appropriate studies and review; and
14 make necessary recommendations to the legislature;

15 (f) Administer oaths, issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of
16 witnesses and the production of materials relevant to the committee's
17 duties; and

18 (g) Consistent with the authority as set forth in RCW 34.05.610
19 through 34.05.660, review rules prepared by the insurance commissioner,
20 health care authority, department of health, and other health-related
21 state agencies where appropriate.

22 (5) In January 1998, the legislative budget committee shall
23 commence a study of the necessity of the existence of the committee and
24 report its recommendation to the appropriate committees of the
25 legislature by December 1, 1998.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Captions as used in this act constitute no
27 part of the law.

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