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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6360

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Pflug, Keiser, Swecker, Fairley, Hewitt, Schoesler, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a work group on primary care  
2 medical practice; creating new sections; and providing an expiration  
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the citizens of  
6 Washington deserve primary care physicians that they can trust and rely  
7 upon for their health and illness care.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) The work group on primary care  
9 medical practice is established, with members as provided in this  
10 subsection:

11 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each  
12 caucus of the senate.

13 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
14 member from each caucus of the house of representatives.

15 (iii) The director of the health care authority shall appoint:

16 (A) Four persons representing primary care physicians practicing in  
17 the state, one of whom practices in a rural county, as defined in RCW  
18 82.14.370;

1 (B) One member representing community clinics;

2 (C) Two members representing health plans, including one  
3 representing a fee-for-service provider and one representing a managed  
4 care provider; and

5 (D) One member representing the health care authority.

6 (b) The health care authority representative shall chair the work  
7 group.

8 (2) The work group shall examine ways to recruit and retain primary  
9 care physicians in the state, including, but not limited to, such  
10 strategies as:

11 (a) Providing greater reimbursement rates for primary care  
12 physicians;

13 (b) Ensuring that all patients have access to and know how to use  
14 a nurse consultant;

15 (c) Encouraging female patients to have a mammogram on the  
16 evidence-based recommended schedule;

17 (d) Effectively implementing strategies designed to reduce  
18 patients' use of nonemergent emergency room care;

19 (e) Communicating with patients through electronic means; and

20 (f) Effectively managing blood sugar levels of patients with  
21 diabetes.

22 (3) The work group may consult with individuals from the public and  
23 private sector or ask such persons to establish an advisory committee.  
24 Members of the advisory committee are not entitled to expense  
25 reimbursement.

26 (4) The work group shall use legislative facilities, and staff  
27 support shall be provided by senate committee services and the house of  
28 representatives office of program research.

29 (5) Legislative members of the work group shall be reimbursed for  
30 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
31 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
32 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
33 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

34 (6) The expenses of the work group shall be paid jointly by the  
35 senate and the house of representatives. Work group expenditures are  
36 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee  
37 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

1           (7) The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to  
2 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2008.

3           (8) The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to  
4 the office of financial management by December 1, 2008, for  
5 consideration in the office of financial management's study of the  
6 primary care system, pursuant to Substitute Senate Bill No. 6282  
7 (2008).

8           (9) This section expires December 31, 2008.

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