

**RCW 48.68.005 Intent—Health care savings accounts authorized.**

(1) This chapter shall be known as the health care savings account act.

(2) The legislature recognizes that the costs of health care are increasing rapidly and most individuals are removed from participating in the purchase of their health care.

As a result, it becomes critical to encourage and support solutions to alleviate the demand for diminishing state resources. In response to these increasing costs in health care spending, the legislature intends to clarify that health care savings accounts may be offered as health benefit options to all residents as incentives to reduce unnecessary health services utilization, administration, and paperwork, and to encourage individuals to be in charge of and participate directly in their use of service and health care spending. To alleviate the possible impoverishment of residents requiring long-term care, health care savings accounts may promote savings for long-term care and provide incentives for individuals to protect themselves from financial hardship due to a long-term health care need.

(3) Health care savings accounts are authorized in Washington state as options to employers and residents. [1995 c 265 § 2.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.