
HOUSE BILL 1291

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Jones, Moyer, Sprenkle and Brekke.

Read first time January 25, 1991. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to medical care services limited to medication for
2 former recipients of general assistance benefits; and amending RCW
3 74.09.035.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.09.035 and 1987 c 406 s 12 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) To the extent of available funds, medical care services may be
8 provided to recipients of general assistance, and recipients of alcohol
9 and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW, in
10 accordance with medical eligibility requirements established by the
11 department. Medical care services limited to medication, including
12 physician services necessary for prescribing and monitoring the
13 appropriateness of said medications may be provided to former
14 recipients of general assistance to the extent provided in this
15 section.

1 (2) Determination of the amount, scope, and duration of medical
2 care services shall be limited to coverage as defined by the
3 department, except that adult dental, and routine foot care shall not
4 be included unless there is a specific appropriation for these
5 services. The amount and scope of medical care services limited to
6 medication shall be limited to prescription drugs which, in the opinion
7 of a physician, are medically necessary for the continued control of a
8 medical condition which was substantially the basis for the former
9 general assistance recipient's incapacity. The initial duration of a
10 recipient's eligibility for medical care services shall be six months
11 from the date his or her eligibility commences as provided in
12 subsection (6) of this section. At the end of six months, and every
13 six months thereafter, the department shall conduct a review of the
14 recipient's status. If the recipient: (a) Does not have health
15 insurance coverage for medications through an employer or other source,
16 and (b) does not have a household income exceeding two hundred percent
17 of the federal poverty level as determined annually by the federal
18 department of health and human services, the department shall continue
19 benefits for an additional six-month period.

20 (3) The department shall establish standards of assistance and
21 resource and income exemptions, which may include deductibles and co-
22 insurance provisions. In addition, the department may include a
23 prohibition against the voluntary assignment of property or cash for
24 the purpose of qualifying for assistance.

25 (4) Residents of skilled nursing homes, intermediate care
26 facilities, and intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded
27 who are eligible for medical care services shall be provided medical
28 services to the same extent as provided to those persons eligible under
29 the medical assistance program.

1 (5) Payments made by the department under this (~~program~~) section
2 shall be the limit of expenditures for medical care services solely
3 from state funds.

4 (6) Eligibility for medical care services shall commence with the
5 date of certification for general assistance or the date of eligibility
6 for alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50
7 RCW. Eligibility for medical care services limited to medication shall
8 commence on the first day of the month following the month in which the
9 recipient's eligibility for general assistance ended.

10 (7) The changes made by this 1991 act shall expire on July 1, 1994.
11 Prior to this expiration date, the department shall submit to the ways
12 and means committee of the senate and appropriations committee of the
13 house of representatives a report containing an evaluation of the
14 effectiveness of this program in assisting individuals to become self-
15 supporting.