
HOUSE BILL 1678

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Leonard, Prince, Wang, Ferguson, Locke, R. King, R. Johnson, Jacobsen, Holland, Brekke, Spanel, Fraser, Morris and Wineberry.

Read first time February 6, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health Care. Referred 2/12/91 to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the availability of psychologists' services to
2 medical assistance recipients; reenacting and amending RCW 74.09.520;
3 providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.09.520 and 1990 c 33 s 594 and 1990 c 25 s 1 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The term "medical assistance" may include the following care
8 and services: (a) Inpatient hospital services; (b) outpatient hospital
9 services; (c) other laboratory and x-ray services; (d) skilled nursing
10 home services; (e) physicians' services, which shall include prescribed
11 medication and instruction on birth control devices; (f) medical care,
12 or any other type of remedial care as may be established by the
13 secretary; (g) home health care services; (h) private duty nursing
14 services; (i) dental services; (j) physical therapy and related
15 services; (k) prescribed drugs, dentures, and prosthetic devices; and

1 eyeglasses prescribed by a physician skilled in diseases of the eye or
2 by an optometrist, whichever the individual may select; (l) personal
3 care services, as provided in this section; (m) hospice services; (n)
4 other diagnostic, screening, preventive, and rehabilitative services;
5 and (o) like services when furnished to a handicapped child by a school
6 district as part of an individualized education program established
7 pursuant to RCW 28A.155.010 through 28A.155.100. For the purposes of
8 this section, the department may not cut off any prescription
9 medications, oxygen supplies, respiratory services, or other life-
10 sustaining medical services or supplies.

11 "Medical assistance," notwithstanding any other provision of law,
12 shall not include routine foot care, or dental services delivered by
13 any health care provider, that are not mandated by Title XIX of the
14 social security act unless there is a specific appropriation for these
15 services. Services included in an individualized education program for
16 a handicapped child under RCW 28A.155.010 through 28A.155.100 shall not
17 qualify as medical assistance prior to the implementation of the
18 funding process developed under RCW 74.09.524.

19 (2) The department shall amend the state plan for medical
20 assistance under Title XIX of the federal social security act to
21 include personal care services, as defined in 42 C.F.R. 440.170(f), in
22 the categorically needy program.

23 (3) The department shall adopt, amend, or rescind such
24 administrative rules as are necessary to ensure that Title XIX personal
25 care services are provided to eligible persons in conformance with
26 federal regulations.

27 (a) These administrative rules shall include financial eligibility
28 indexed according to the requirements of the social security act
29 providing for medicaid eligibility.

1 (b) The rules shall require clients be assessed as having a medical
2 condition requiring assistance with personal care tasks. Plans of care
3 must be approved by a physician and reviewed by a nurse every ninety
4 days.

5 (4) The department shall design and implement a means to assess the
6 level of functional disability of persons eligible for personal care
7 services under this section. The personal care services benefit shall
8 be provided to the extent funding is available according to the
9 assessed level of functional disability. Any reductions in services
10 made necessary for funding reasons should be accomplished in a manner
11 that assures that priority for maintaining services is given to persons
12 with the greatest need as determined by the assessment of functional
13 disability.

14 (5) The department shall report to the appropriate fiscal
15 committees of the legislature on the utilization and associated costs
16 of the personal care option under Title XIX of the federal social
17 security act, as defined in 42 C.F.R. 440.170(f), in the categorically
18 needy program. This report shall be submitted by January 1, 1990, and
19 submitted on a yearly basis thereafter.

20 (6) Effective July 1, 1989, the department shall offer hospice
21 services in accordance with available funds. The department shall
22 provide a complete accounting of the costs of providing hospice
23 services under this section by December 20, 1990. The report shall
24 include an assessment of cost savings which may result by providing
25 hospice to persons who otherwise would use hospitals, nursing homes, or
26 more expensive care. The hospice benefit under this section shall
27 terminate on June 30, 1991, unless extended by the legislature.

28 (7)(a) Effective July 1, 1991, and continuing through June 30,
29 1993, the department shall offer psychologists' services, including
30 evaluation and psychotherapy, within available resources. The

1 department shall provide a complete accounting of the costs of
2 providing psychologists' services under this section by January 1,
3 1993. The report shall include an assessment of cost savings that may
4 result by providing psychologists' services to persons who would
5 otherwise use in-patient hospital or other medical care. The extension
6 of psychologists' services to include psychotherapy under this
7 subsection shall terminate on June 30, 1993, unless extended by the
8 legislature.

9 (b) The department may require that participating psychologists
10 comply with the following cost-containment strategies:

11 (i) Licensure by the state of Washington, with no current or
12 pending suspension, exclusion, termination, or sanction, either
13 administrative or judicial in any state or by any governmental program
14 or licensing board;

15 (ii) Reasonable fixed reimbursement rates;

16 (iii) Peer review and utilization review to determine
17 appropriateness of care, quality of care, and cost-effectiveness of
18 care;

19 (iv) A requirement that psychologists develop individual plans of
20 care and maintain clinical records documenting progress;

21 (v) Limitations of visits consistent with diagnosis and appropriate
22 standards of treatment; and

23 (vi) Documentation of appropriate consultation between the
24 physician of record and the participating psychologist.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
28 effect July 1, 1991.