
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2993

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Dickerson, Kagi, Hasegawa, Darneille, Kenney, Roberts, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to facilitating continuity of medical assistance
2 for persons confined in correctional institutions and institutions for
3 mental diseases; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of social and health services
6 shall present a feasibility study to the governor and the legislature
7 by November 15, 2008, examining systems to expeditiously link persons
8 released from confinement in state and local correctional facilities
9 and institutions for mental diseases to medical assistance for which
10 they qualify.

11 (1) The study shall present an analysis of the costs and benefits
12 associated with suspending eligibility for persons who were receiving
13 medical assistance at the time their confinement began, including
14 consideration of the changes required and resources needed to
15 effectively suspend medical assistance benefits in the following
16 manner:

17 (a) No medical assistance benefits would be provided to a person
18 while confined, except as explicitly authorized by state law.

1 (b) Upon the person's release from confinement, medical assistance
2 benefits for the person would immediately resume. No new application
3 would be required to effectuate resumption of medical assistance.

4 (c) The person would not be required to recertify eligibility for
5 medical assistance during the period in which he or she is confined.

6 (i) If the person is confined when he or she would otherwise be
7 required to recertify eligibility for medical assistance, the
8 department would allow the person to recertify eligibility before
9 release from confinement, or require the person to recertify
10 eligibility immediately after release, or at a later time established
11 by rule.

12 (ii) The study must include an assessment of the likelihood that
13 the federal government would approve a medicaid state plan amendment to
14 allow the state to receive medicaid matching funds for medical
15 assistance provided to a person during the period in which
16 recertification of eligibility is pending under (c)(i) of this
17 subsection.

18 The study must indicate a date that a system of suspension of
19 benefits could be implemented, in accordance with this section, if such
20 a system requires changes to information systems.

21 (2) The study shall present an analysis of the costs and benefits
22 associated with improving the efficiency and scope of the expedited
23 medical assistance reinstatement and eligibility determination process
24 established under RCW 74.09.555. The study must examine the costs and
25 benefits of:

26 (a) Extending expedited medical assistance reinstatement and
27 eligibility determination to persons other than those with mental
28 disorders;

29 (b) Making the process available to persons whether or not they
30 received medical assistance benefits before their confinement;

31 (c) Developing a system under which an application could be
32 approved before a person's release from confinement and held in a
33 suspended status until the day of the person's release.

34 (3) The study shall present an analysis of the costs and benefits
35 of providing medical and mental health evaluations to determine whether
36 a person is disabled for purposes of the medical assistance program
37 before the person's release from confinement.

1 (4) The study shall analyze the costs and benefits of establishing
2 policies and procedures to accelerate notification of the department
3 when a person enrolled in medical assistance is confined in a
4 Washington state correctional institution or Washington state
5 institution for mental diseases, or is released from confinement. The
6 policies must promote the continuity of medical assistance for such
7 persons, and be designed to inform persons in confinement about medical
8 assistance benefits.

9 (5) In preparing the feasibility study, the department shall
10 collaborate with the Washington association of sheriffs and police
11 chiefs, the department of corrections, the regional support networks,
12 department of social and health services field offices, institutions
13 for mental diseases, and correctional institutions.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
15 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
16 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
17 void.

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