
HOUSE BILL 2568

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Wilcox, Manweller, and Schmick

Read first time 01/21/14. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to oversight of health reform implementation by the
2 joint select committee on health care implementation and oversight;
3 adding a new section to chapter 43.71 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 48.02 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
5 date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds:

8 (1) The federal patient protection and affordable care act became
9 law on March 23, 2010, enacting broad changes to every element of the
10 nation's health care system with the majority of changes effective
11 January 1, 2014;

12 (2) Individuals and businesses were told by many of our national
13 and state leaders that the patient protection and affordable care act
14 would not impact their ability to keep their current health plan and
15 doctors and that their premiums would be less expensive;

16 (3) The federal government has provided states with some
17 flexibility in the implementation of the patient protection and
18 affordable care act, but our state insurance commissioner has refused
19 to implement some of the changes allowed by the federal government;

1 (4) The requirement in the patient protection and affordable care
2 act that employers with fifty or more full-time equivalent employees
3 offer affordable health insurance or pay a penalty has been delayed to
4 take effect January 1, 2015, and the impacts of this requirement on
5 employers, employees, and jobs are likely to be significant since sixty
6 percent of Washingtonians receive health insurance through employers;

7 (5) Individuals and businesses will continue to experience many
8 changes to their health care and health insurance options over the
9 coming years and months if the patient protection and affordable care
10 act remains unchanged;

11 (6) Concerns of increasing health care costs remain;

12 (7) The federal government continues to adopt and revise numerous
13 regulations and guidelines to implement the patient protection and
14 affordable care act;

15 (8) State policymakers need to actively follow the changing federal
16 regulations and guidelines so that the state can develop the most
17 appropriate response to the changes in the health care system for the
18 people of the state of Washington;

19 (9) Several state and public entities, including the newly created
20 health benefit exchange, have different roles in implementing health
21 care policy in the state. These entities are not required to
22 coordinate their activities; and

23 (10) Better coordination between and oversight of the health care
24 authority, the health benefit exchange, the office of the insurance
25 commissioner, the department of health, and the department of social
26 and health services will lead to efficiencies in health care delivery
27 and ultimately cost savings to the state.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A joint select committee on health
29 care implementation and oversight is established, with members as
30 provided in this subsection.

31 (i) The chairs of the health care committees of the senate and the
32 house of representatives must serve as cochairs of the committee;

33 (ii) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from
34 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate;

35 (iii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two
36 members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
37 representatives; and

1 (iv) The governor shall appoint a nonvoting committee member.

2 (b) The cochairs shall convene the committee to meet no less than
3 quarterly.

4 (2) The committee shall:

5 (a) Provide oversight of health reform implementation by the health
6 care authority, the health benefit exchange, the office of the
7 insurance commissioner, the department of health, and the department of
8 social and health services to avoid duplication of efforts, to increase
9 the quality of services, and to reduce costs for consumers;

10 (b) Request briefings from the office of the insurance
11 commissioner, the Washington health benefit exchange, and the health
12 care authority;

13 (c) Request briefings from business organizations regarding the
14 impacts of the patient protection and affordable care act and its
15 implementation on Washington employers and employees; and

16 (d) Coordinate with the research and data analysis division of the
17 department of social and health services to monitor health care cost
18 trends.

19 (3) The committee may:

20 (a) Propose, as necessary, legislation and budget recommendations
21 to the appropriate committees of the legislature to assist in
22 coordination of activities and achieve better quality health care and
23 cost savings; and

24 (b) Recommend to the executive branch, the insurance commissioner,
25 and the health benefit exchange any changes to health reform
26 implementation that should be adopted due to new federal regulations or
27 guidelines or changes in the interpretation or implementation of the
28 federal patient protection and affordable care act.

29 (4) Staff support for the committee must be provided by senate
30 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
31 research.

32 (5) Legislative members of the committee must be reimbursed for
33 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
34 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
35 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
36 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

37 (6) The expenses of the committee must be paid jointly by the
38 senate and the house of representatives. Committee expenditures are

1 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
2 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
3 successor committees.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.71 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 At the time of enrollment, the exchange shall survey enrollees
7 regarding their insurance status and the source of their previous
8 health insurance coverage, if applicable.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 The office of the insurance commissioner, in consultation with the
12 health benefit exchange and the health care authority, shall provide a
13 quarterly report to the joint select committee on health care
14 implementation and oversight with the following data:

15 (1) The information collected under section 3 of this act;

16 (2) The cost of individual and small group health plans in the
17 exchange and individual, small group, and large group health plans
18 outside the exchange, and a comparison with costs reported in the
19 previous quarterly report;

20 (3) The number of individuals currently covered by individual and
21 small group health plans in the exchange, publicly subsidized health
22 care programs, and individual, small group, and large group health
23 plans outside the exchange, and a comparison with the numbers reported
24 in the previous quarter; and

25 (4) A current estimate of the insurance status of all state
26 residents categorized by source of coverage, including:

27 (a) Individual and small group market health plan coverage,
28 including, but not limited to, coverage outside the exchange,
29 subsidized coverage inside the exchange, and nonsubsidized coverage
30 inside the exchange;

31 (b) Large group market coverage;

32 (c) Coverage provided by self-insured employers or a Taft-Hartley
33 health care trust;

34 (d) Government programs, including, but not limited to, medicare
35 and medicaid;

1 (e) Coverage for active duty members of the military, military
2 retirees, and their dependents;

3 (f) Coverage provided for federal, state, and local government
4 employees and their dependents; and

5 (g) Uninsured.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The joint select committee on health care
7 oversight created under Engrossed Substitute Senate Concurrent
8 Resolution No. 8401 in 2013 is hereby abolished.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act expires December 31, 2017.

--- END ---