
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2607

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Dyer, L. Thomas, D. Sommers, Cairnes, Pelesky, Huff, Beeksma, Smith, B. Thomas, Fuhrman, Backlund, Campbell and Hymes)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to a study utilizing vouchers for basic health plan
2 enrollees; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that managed care
5 systems are not the only medical financing system capable of reducing
6 health care costs. Health care savings accounts are a method of
7 potentially reducing health care costs and enabling patients to make
8 choices within a fee-for-service health delivery mechanism. The
9 legislature finds it appropriate to study the merit, utility, and
10 effectiveness of health care savings accounts as an option in the basic
11 health plan.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The administrator of the health care
13 authority, in consultation with interested persons, shall no later than
14 December 1, 1996, submit to the appropriate committees of the
15 legislature, a comprehensive plan for the analysis, design,
16 implementation, and evaluation of a health care savings account program
17 as a benefit option for enrollees in the basic health plan. The health

1 care savings account program option must use a voucher system to
2 purchase health care services on a fee-for-service basis.

3 (2) The comprehensive plan must include:

4 (a) An analysis of the merit and utility of a health care savings
5 account program option within the basic health plan;

6 (b) A detailed design of the proposed health care savings account
7 program option;

8 (c) A detailed plan for implementing the health care savings
9 account program option; and

10 (d) A plan to evaluate the effectiveness and acceptance of the
11 health care savings account program option, including a comparison of
12 the costs to both the state and enrollees of health care savings
13 accounts and managed care plan options offered in the basic health
14 plan. The evaluation plan also must include, but not be limited to, an
15 assessment of (i) the health status and satisfaction of enrollees; (ii)
16 the use of preventive health services; and (iii) the extent of adverse
17 selection and market segmentation.

18 (3) The health care savings account program option must be
19 implemented on or before January 1, 1998, subject to the approval of
20 the program design, implementation plan, and evaluation plan by the
21 legislature and subject to appropriation of funds necessary to
22 implement and evaluate the program.

23 (4) The administrator of the health care authority shall report
24 annually to the appropriate committees of the legislature for the
25 duration of the health care savings account program and shall submit a
26 final report, including the program evaluation, within the time frame
27 specified in the evaluation plan and approved by the legislature.

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