
HOUSE BILL 2607

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Dyer, L. Thomas, D. Sommers, Cairnes, Pelesky, Huff, Beeksma, Smith, B. Thomas, Fuhrman, Backlund, Campbell and Hymes

Read first time 01/15/96. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

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

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 another method of
7 reducing health care costs and enable patients to maintain the high
8 level of choice and decision making of fee-for-service medicine. As
9 the legislature awaits the arrival of health care savings accounts in
10 the private sector, the legislature finds it appropriate to implement
11 a study that will determine the effectiveness of health care savings
12 account principles in the basic health plan.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The administrator of the basic health
14 plan shall conduct a study to compare two similar groups of subsidized
15 enrollees in the basic health plan. The experimental group must
16 receive health care vouchers that are redeemable by providers for
17 health care services on a fee-for-service basis. The control group

1 must continue to receive their health care through managed care
2 systems.

3 (2) The study must meet the following guidelines:

4 (a) The experimental group must contain at least two thousand five
5 hundred enrollees;

6 (b) The study must run for twenty-four months;

7 (c) Each enrollee in the experimental group must be provided with
8 health care vouchers that can be redeemed by a health care provider on
9 a fee-for-service basis;

10 (d) The enrollees in the experimental group must be allowed to
11 receive health care from any licensed health care provider licensed
12 under Washington law. However, only the health care services that are
13 permitted under the basic health plan policies shall be allowed to
14 accept the vouchers; and

15 (e) The enrollees in the experimental group must receive vouchers
16 in the amount it costs the state to have a similar enrollee under the
17 basic health plan for twenty-four months. If the enrollee spends less
18 than the amount of the voucher, the enrollee is entitled to all of the
19 remaining money, in cash, at the end of the twenty-four-month period.

20 (3) The administrator of the basic health plan shall report
21 annually to the legislature on the study beginning September 1, 1996.
22 The first report shall present the legislature with a comprehensive
23 design for the study.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall expire December 31, 1999.

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