
SENATE BILL 5454

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Quigley, Wojahn and Franklin; by request of Health Services Commission

Read first time 01/24/95. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to total quality management; amending RCW
2 43.72.070; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.72.070 and 1993 c 492 s 409 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) To ensure the highest quality health services at the lowest
7 total cost, the commission shall establish a total quality management
8 system of continuous quality improvement. Such endeavor shall be based
9 upon the recognized quality science for continuous quality improvement.
10 The commission shall impanel a committee composed of persons from the
11 private sector and related sciences who have broad knowledge and
12 successful experiences in continuous quality improvement and total
13 quality management applications. It shall be the responsibility of the
14 committee to develop quality standards for ((a Washington state health
15 services supplier certification process)) certified health plans and
16 recommend such standards, and the process for assuring that plans meet
17 such standards, to the commission for review and adoption. Once
18 adopted, the commission shall establish a schedule, with full
19 compliance no later than ((July 1, 1996)) four years from the date of

1 the plan's certification by the office of the insurance commissioner to
2 provide the uniform benefits package, whereby all health ((service
3 providers and health service facilities)) plans shall ((be certified
4 prior to providing uniform benefits package services)) meet the
5 requirements of the commission's quality assurance and improvement
6 rules and be accredited by an approved quality review organization.

7 (2) The commission may delegate to the department of health, and
8 subject to available funds and staffing, the department will carry out,
9 activities necessary to implement the total quality management program
10 developed by the commission. These activities include, but are not
11 limited to, the following;

12 (a) Review and approval of the descriptions and timetable of the
13 plans' quality improvement programs;

14 (b) Participation in the accreditation surveys and monitoring of
15 the plan's progress in achieving accreditation;

16 (c) Oversight of approved quality review organizations;

17 (d) Recommendations to the commission and the office of the
18 insurance commissioner as to whether the plan should be prohibited from
19 accepting additional enrollment or should have its certification
20 removed when a plan encounters difficulties achieving or maintaining
21 accreditation; and

22 (e) Technical assistance to health plans related to their quality
23 improvement activities and the accreditation process.

24 (3) The department of health may establish rules, as necessary, to
25 carry out its responsibilities delegated to it under this section.

26 (4) The commission may also request that the department of health
27 provide recommendations to the commission for the on-going development
28 of a total quality improvement system.

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
32 effect July 1, 1995.

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