
SENATE BILL 6256

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Winsley, Wojahn, Kohl, Pelz, Owen, Bauer, Fairley, Rasmussen, Fraser, Thibaudeau, Prentice, Heavey, Quigley and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/09/96. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding severe trauma care services to
2 individuals who are unable to pay; amending RCW 43.72.900; adding a new
3 section to chapter 70.168 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a successful
6 state-wide trauma care system depends on the voluntary participation of
7 hospitals and health care facilities as designated trauma care centers
8 for the special purpose of providing lifesaving medical care to victims
9 of severe trauma. The legislature further finds that these services
10 are expensive, and that providing them may create a particular
11 financial burden on designated trauma care services when this care
12 serves patients who cannot pay for it themselves and for whom there is
13 no third party payer.

14 It is the intent of the legislature to support the state-wide
15 trauma care system and its designated trauma centers with a fair and
16 equitable funding system that provides reimbursement for uncompensated
17 care. The legislature intends to provide financial assistance for
18 designated trauma care services on behalf of trauma patients for whom
19 other financial resources are not available.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.168 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) A designated trauma care service is eligible for reimbursement
4 from the health services account only for patients who:

5 (a) Enter the designated trauma care service after qualifying for
6 trauma services through the trauma triage procedure developed by the
7 department of health;

8 (b) Have an injury severity score (ISS) of sixteen or greater.

9 (2) To be eligible for reimbursement, designated trauma care
10 services shall:

11 (a) Demonstrate all designation standards defined by the department
12 of health in rule;

13 (b) Provide complete trauma care data to the department's trauma
14 care registry according to requirements in WAC 246-976-430;

15 (c) Establish an internal quality assurance trauma program that
16 complies with WAC 246-976-880; and

17 (d) Enroll medically indigent trauma care patients in the state's
18 basic health plan.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.72.900 and 1993 c 492 s 469 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The health services account is created in the state treasury.
22 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Moneys in
23 the account may be expended only for maintaining and expanding health
24 services access for low-income residents, maintaining and expanding the
25 public health system, maintaining and improving the capacity of the
26 health care system, containing health care costs, and the regulation,
27 planning, and administering of the health care system.

28 (2) At least five million dollars from the health services account
29 shall be dedicated annually to reimburse every hospital, facility, or
30 health care provider authorized by the state to provide levels I
31 through V designated trauma services. The department of social and
32 health services shall disburse this money exclusively to cover
33 reasonable costs of care for patients who meet charity care standards
34 defined in RCW 70.170.020 and to increase the state's payment for
35 medically indigent patients. Reimbursement shall be provided at a rate
36 that covers reasonable costs for treating patients, but the rate shall
37 not exceed the state's medicaid rate.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of health shall conduct or
2 cause to be conducted a study on all costs, charges, expenses, and
3 levels of reimbursement associated with providers of trauma care
4 services. The report shall include recommendations for reimbursement
5 of undercompensated and uncompensated trauma care at designated trauma
6 care services state-wide. This report shall be submitted to the
7 appropriate committees of the legislature by July 1, 1997.

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