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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2248**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Huff and Cody; by request of Health Care Authority)

Read first time 04/04/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to basic health plan agents' and brokers'  
2 commissions; amending RCW 70.47.015; providing an effective date; and  
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.47.015 and 1995 c 265 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that the basic health plan has been an  
8 effective program in providing health coverage for uninsured residents.  
9 Further, since 1993, substantial amounts of public funds have been  
10 allocated for subsidized basic health plan enrollment.

11 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that the basic health plan  
12 enrollment be expanded expeditiously, consistent with funds available  
13 in the health services account, with the goal of two hundred thousand  
14 adult subsidized basic health plan enrollees and one hundred thirty  
15 thousand children covered through expanded medical assistance services  
16 by June 30, 1997, with the priority of providing needed health services  
17 to children in conjunction with other public programs.

1 (3) Effective January 1, 1996, basic health plan enrollees whose  
2 income is less than one hundred twenty-five percent of the federal  
3 poverty level shall pay at least a ten-dollar premium share.

4 (4) No later than July 1, 1996, the administrator shall implement  
5 procedures whereby hospitals licensed under chapters 70.41 and 71.12  
6 RCW, health carrier, rural health care facilities regulated under  
7 chapter 70.175 RCW, and community and migrant health centers funded  
8 under RCW 41.05.220, may expeditiously assist patients and their  
9 families in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance  
10 coverage, and in submitting such applications directly to the health  
11 care authority or the department of social and health services. The  
12 health care authority and the department of social and health services  
13 shall make every effort to simplify and expedite the application and  
14 enrollment process.

15 (5) No later than July 1, 1996, the administrator shall implement  
16 procedures whereby health insurance agents and brokers, licensed under  
17 chapter 48.17 RCW, may expeditiously assist patients and their families  
18 in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance coverage, and  
19 in submitting such applications directly to the health care authority  
20 or the department of social and health services. Brokers and agents  
21 ~~((shall be entitled to))~~ may receive a commission for each individual  
22 sale of the basic health plan to anyone not ~~((at anytime previously))~~  
23 signed up within the previous five years and a commission for each  
24 group sale of the basic health plan, if funding for this purpose is  
25 provided in a specific appropriation to the health care authority. No  
26 commission shall be provided upon a renewal. Commissions shall be  
27 determined based on the estimated annual cost of the basic health plan,  
28 however, commissions shall not result in a reduction in the premium  
29 amount paid to health carriers. For purposes of this section "health  
30 carrier" is as defined in RCW 48.43.005. The administrator may  
31 establish: (a) Minimum educational requirements that must be completed  
32 by the agents or brokers; (b) an appointment process for agents or  
33 brokers marketing the basic health plan; or (c) standards for  
34 revocation of the appointment of an agent or broker to submit  
35 applications for cause, including untrustworthy or incompetent conduct  
36 or harm to the public. The health care authority and the department of  
37 social and health services shall make every effort to simplify and  
38 expedite the application and enrollment process.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
4 July 1, 1997.

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