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HOUSE BILL 1988

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Ballasiotes, Dickerson, Tokuda, Haigh, Miloscia, Radcliff, Anderson, Veloria, Wolfe, Cody, McIntire, O'Brien, Edmonds, Kenney, Lantz, Keiser, Regala, Murray, Lovick, Ruderman, Santos and Kessler

Read first time 02/12/1999. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding maternity care for at-risk mothers;  
2 adding new sections to chapter 74.09 RCW; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 82.04 RCW; creating a new section; making appropriations; and  
4 providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the maternity  
7 care access system has improved birth outcomes and reduced unintended  
8 pregnancies, contributing to the growth of a healthy and productive  
9 society. The legislature further finds that expanding the maternity  
10 care access system to serve some young children and their parents until  
11 the child's third birthday will further these outcomes, by  
12 strengthening at-risk families and lowering the incidence of child  
13 abuse and neglect.

14 The legislature recognizes that the community as well as the state  
15 bears the costs of unhealthy families, including poor academic  
16 achievement, low productivity, crime, social service demands, and  
17 medical care costs. Research demonstrates that voluntary home visiting  
18 programs can significantly reduce these costs.

1 The legislature finds that collaboration between the state,  
2 corporations, foundations, and individuals to encourage a nurturing  
3 environment for child growth and development will benefit both the  
4 public and private sectors. The legislature further finds that a  
5 partnership between the state and the private sector provides the  
6 strongest foundation for strengthening parent support programs. Thus,  
7 the legislature intends to provide a vehicle and incentives for  
8 individuals, corporations, and foundations to contribute to the state's  
9 efforts to improve the quality of life for children in our state.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 The department shall, to the extent that funds are available,  
13 extend the existing maternity care access program that is designed to  
14 ensure healthy child development and to reduce child abuse and neglect.  
15 The program shall provide extended maternity care services to at-risk  
16 eligible persons and their children, up to age three, to the maximum  
17 extent allowable under the medical assistance program, Title XIX of the  
18 federal social security act.

19 For the purposes of this act, "extended maternity care services"  
20 means postpartum inpatient and outpatient medical care, case  
21 management, and support services, which may include health assessments,  
22 health and parent education, psychological assessment and counseling,  
23 outreach services, case management, nutritional assessment and  
24 counseling, and transportation. Assessment services may be provided by  
25 public health nurses or by supervised and trained lay personnel.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW  
27 to read as follows:

28 The department shall phase in the extended coverage of at-risk  
29 children from birth to age three by providing services in one county  
30 with both an urban and a rural area. In developing a plan to phase in  
31 services, the department shall collaborate with organizations concerned  
32 with and having experience with maternity care, parent education, and  
33 child development.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW  
35 to read as follows:

1       The department shall seek all necessary waivers from the federal  
2 government to allow for the extension of the existing maternity care  
3 access program to provide extended maternity care services to at-risk  
4 eligible persons and their children up to age three.

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7       The maternity care endowment fund is established in the custody of  
8 the state treasurer. Moneys received from private donations and funds  
9 received from other sources may be deposited into the endowment fund.  
10 At the request of the department, the treasurer shall release principal  
11 and earnings from the endowment fund to the department for the services  
12 authorized under chapter . . . , Laws of 1999 (this act). No  
13 appropriation is required for expenditures from the endowment fund.  
14 The earnings on the fund shall be used solely for the purposes included  
15 in this chapter.

16       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 82.04 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18       (1) There may be credited against the tax imposed by this chapter,  
19 any amount donated to the maternity care endowment fund, as created in  
20 section 5 of this act.

21       (2) The credits allowed under this section shall be equal to fifty  
22 percent of the amount donated by the person or company subject to  
23 taxation under this chapter. The total credits allowed under this  
24 section shall not exceed twenty million dollars of credits each fiscal  
25 year. Tax credits are available on a first-come basis. The department  
26 shall keep a running total of all credits approved. If the amount  
27 submitted for a credit will cause the cap to be exceeded for the fiscal  
28 year, the department shall give a partial approval of the application,  
29 equal to the amount of remaining credit available for the fiscal year.

30       (3) Application for credits under this section shall be made to the  
31 department in a form and manner as required by the department. A  
32 person receiving approval must keep records necessary for the  
33 department to verify eligibility under this section. A person shall  
34 apply for the credit after making the donation.

35       (4) A person qualifying for the credit must take the credit against  
36 taxes due within two years of the date of qualification, or the credit

1 is no longer valid. Any unused excess credit may be carried forward to  
2 future periods for a maximum of one year.

3 (5) The department shall allow accrual of tax credits to a  
4 successor if the business or firm is sold, assigned, conveyed, or  
5 otherwise transferred.

6 (6) No applicant is eligible for tax credits under this section in  
7 excess of the amount of tax that would otherwise be due under this  
8 chapter.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The sum of . . . . . dollars, or as  
10 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund  
11 to the department of health for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000,  
12 to carry out the purposes of this act.

13 (2) The sum of . . . . . dollars, or as much thereof as may be  
14 necessary, is appropriated from the general fund to the department of  
15 health for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, to carry out the  
16 purposes of this act. Expenditures under this section may not exceed  
17 the amount donated to the maternity care endowment fund established by  
18 section 5 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act takes effect August 1, 1999.

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