

Health Care

HB 1058

Brief Description: *Providing assistance to treat breast and cervical cancer.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Ruderman, Campbell, Cody, Skinner, Linville, Barlean, Lovick, Doumit, Ballasiotes, Lambert, Cox, Gombosky, Schual-Berke, Darneille, Van Luven, Ogden, Conway, Keiser, O'Brien, Edmonds, Anderson, Edwards, McDermott, Haigh, Kenney, Kirby, Kagi, Hunt, Esser, McIntire and Jackley.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *The Medicaid program will provide treatment for women with breast or cervical cancer who have no insurance coverage.*

Hearing Date: *1/30/01*

Staff: *Dave Knutson (786-7146).*

Background:

The national Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program was established by the federal government in 1990. The department of health operates the program in Washington. The program seeks to increase the early detection of breast and cervical cancer. Women with incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level are provided access to breast and cervical cancer screening and assistance in obtaining treatment. The program does not pay for treatment if a woman is identified with breast or cervical cancer.

In October, 2000 the President signed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-354). The Act amends the Medicaid statute to allow states to provide medical assistance to women screened through the Department of Health program and found to need breast or cervical cancer treatment.

If a state elects to exercise this option under the medicaid statute, the federal government will provide an enhanced fund match to pay for treatment. The enhanced federal match will cover approximately sixty five percent of the cost, compared to the usual fifty percent match provided for other medicaid services. Federal funds are available retroactively for items and services provided on or after October 1, 2000.

Summary of Bill:

Eligibility for medical assistance is modified to include women who are under the age of 65 who have been screened through the department of health breast and cervical cancer program, need treatment for cancer, and have no health insurance. Treatment is limited to the time required to treat the breast or cervical cancer.

Effective Date: *The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 2001.*

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Requested on January 25, 2001.*