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HOUSE BILL 2238

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representative Conway

Read first time 04/09/2001. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to child hearing screening; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.21 RCW; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 48.44 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.46  
4 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, any  
9 policy that is delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, extended, or  
10 modified in this state by an insuring entity must provide that the  
11 health insurance benefits applicable under the health insurance policy  
12 must include coverage for initial screening and for any necessary  
13 audiologic diagnostic follow-up care related to the newborn hearing  
14 screening test.

15 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, if a  
16 health insurance policy provides coverage or benefits to a resident of  
17 this state, it shall be deemed to be delivered in this state within the  
18 meaning of this chapter regardless of whether the insuring entity

1 issuing or delivering the policy is located within or outside this  
2 state.

3 (3) Benefits for the newborn child hearing screening test and any  
4 necessary audiologic follow-up care are subject to copayment and  
5 coinsurance provisions of a health insurance policy to the extent that  
6 other medical services covered by the policy are subject to those  
7 provisions, except that benefits for the newborn child hearing  
8 screening test are exempt from deductible or dollar limit provisions in  
9 the health insurance policy. This exemption must be explicitly  
10 provided for in the policy.

11 (4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, this  
12 section shall not be construed to require a health insurance policy to  
13 include coverage for the newborn child hearing screening test for an  
14 individual who is a resident of this state if the individual is  
15 employed outside this state and the individual's employer maintains a  
16 health insurance policy for the individual as an employment benefit.

17 (5) This section applies to all policies issued under this chapter  
18 and delivered or issued for delivery on or after the effective date of  
19 this section. This section also applies to all renewals of contracts  
20 that are renewed on or after the effective date of this section.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.21 RCW  
22 to read as follows:

23 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, any  
24 policy that is delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, extended, or  
25 modified in this state by an insurer must provide that the health  
26 insurance benefits applicable under the health insurance policy must  
27 include coverage for initial screening and for any necessary audiologic  
28 diagnostic follow-up care related to the newborn hearing screening  
29 test.

30 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, if a  
31 health insurance policy provides coverage or benefits to a resident of  
32 this state, it shall be deemed to be delivered in this state within the  
33 meaning of this chapter regardless of whether the insurer issuing or  
34 delivering the policy is located within or outside this state.

35 (3) Benefits for the newborn child hearing screening test and any  
36 necessary audiologic follow-up care are subject to copayment and  
37 coinsurance provisions of a health insurance policy to the extent that  
38 other medical services covered by the policy are subject to those

1 provisions, except that benefits for the newborn child hearing  
2 screening test are exempt from deductible or dollar limit provisions in  
3 the health insurance policy. This exemption must be explicitly  
4 provided for in the policy.

5 (4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, this  
6 section shall not be construed to require a health insurance policy to  
7 include coverage for the newborn child hearing screening test for an  
8 individual who is a resident of this state if the individual is  
9 employed outside this state and the individual's employer maintains a  
10 health insurance policy for the individual as an employment benefit.

11 (5) This section applies to all policies issued under this chapter  
12 and delivered or issued for delivery on or after the effective date of  
13 this section. This section also applies to all renewals of contracts  
14 that are renewed on or after the effective date of this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.44 RCW  
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, any  
18 health insurance contract that is delivered, issued for delivery,  
19 renewed, extended, or modified in this state by any carrier must  
20 provide that the health insurance benefits applicable under the health  
21 insurance contract must include coverage for initial screening and for  
22 any necessary audiologic diagnostic follow-up care related to the  
23 newborn hearing screening test.

24 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, if a  
25 health insurance contract provides coverage or benefits to a resident  
26 of this state, it shall be deemed to be delivered in this state within  
27 the meaning of this chapter regardless of whether the health carrier  
28 issuing or delivering the policy is located within or outside this  
29 state.

30 (3) Benefits for the newborn child hearing screening test and any  
31 necessary audiologic follow-up care are subject to copayment and  
32 coinsurance provisions of a health insurance contract to the extent  
33 that other medical services covered by the contract are subject to  
34 those provisions, except that benefits for the newborn child hearing  
35 screening test are exempt from deductible or dollar limit provisions in  
36 the health insurance contract. This exemption must be explicitly  
37 provided for in the contract.

1 (4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, this  
2 section shall not be construed to require a health insurance contract  
3 to include coverage for the newborn child hearing screening test for an  
4 individual who is a resident of this state if the individual is  
5 employed outside this state and the individual's employer maintains a  
6 health insurance contract for the individual as an employment benefit.

7 (5) This section applies to all contracts issued under any group  
8 master policy, delivered or issued for delivery on or after the  
9 effective date of this section. This section also applies to all  
10 renewals of contracts that are renewed on or after the effective date  
11 of this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 48.46 RCW  
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, a health  
15 maintenance organization must include coverage for initial screening  
16 and for any necessary audiologic diagnostic follow-up care related to  
17 the newborn hearing screening test.

18 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, if a  
19 health maintenance organization provides coverage or benefits to a  
20 resident of this state, it shall be deemed to be delivered in this  
21 state within the meaning of this chapter regardless of whether the  
22 health maintenance organization is located within or outside this  
23 state.

24 (3) Benefits for the newborn child hearing screening test and any  
25 necessary audiologic follow-up care are subject to copayment and  
26 coinsurance provisions of a health maintenance agreement to the extent  
27 that other medical services covered by the health maintenance agreement  
28 are subject to those provisions, except that benefits for the newborn  
29 child hearing screening test are exempt from deductible or dollar limit  
30 provisions in the health maintenance agreement. This exemption must be  
31 explicitly provided for in the health maintenance agreement.

32 (4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, this  
33 section shall not be construed to require a health maintenance  
34 agreement to include coverage for the newborn child hearing screening  
35 test for an individual who is a resident of this state if the  
36 individual is employed outside this state and the individual's employer  
37 maintains a health insurance policy for the individual as an employment  
38 benefit.

1 (5) This section applies to all health maintenance agreements  
2 delivered or issued for delivery on or after the effective date of this  
3 section. This section also applies to all renewals of health  
4 maintenance agreements that are renewed on or after the effective date  
5 of this section.

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

8 (1) The department must pay for the newborn/infant child hearing  
9 screening test, if the child is eligible for medical assistance as  
10 determined by state and federal law.

11 (2) The governor must ensure that any contract for the provision of  
12 medical assistance negotiated with a managed care organization as  
13 authorized by state law shall include payment for newborn/infant  
14 hearing screening testing and necessary audiologic follow-up care.

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