
SENATE BILL 5613

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

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By Senators Hobbs, Tom, Rockefeller, Pridemore, Schoesler, and Shin

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1 AN ACT Relating to requiring school districts or educational
2 service districts to purchase employee health insurance coverage
3 through the state health care authority; and amending RCW 28A.400.270,
4 28A.400.275, 28A.400.350, 41.05.011, 41.05.021, and 41.05.050.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.400.270 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 11 s 4 are each
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
9 this section apply throughout RCW 28A.400.275 and 28A.400.280.

10 (1) "School district employee benefit plan" means the overall plan
11 used by the district for distributing fringe benefit subsidies to
12 employees, including the method of determining employee coverage and
13 the amount of employer contributions, as well as the characteristics of
14 benefit providers and the specific benefits or coverage offered. It
15 shall not include coverage offered to district employees for which
16 there is no contribution from public funds.

17 (2) "Fringe benefit" does not include liability coverage, old-age
18 survivors' insurance, workers' compensation, unemployment compensation,

1 retirement benefits under the Washington state retirement system, or
2 payment for unused leave for illness or injury under RCW 28A.400.210.

3 (3) "Basic benefits" are determined through local bargaining until
4 September 1, 2013, and are limited to medical, dental, vision, group
5 term life, and group long-term disability insurance coverage.
6 Beginning September 1, 2013, basic benefits are determined by the
7 public employees' benefits board and administered by the Washington
8 state health care authority.

9 (4) "Benefit providers" include insurers, third party claims
10 administrators, direct providers of employee fringe benefits, health
11 maintenance organizations, health care service contractors, and the
12 Washington state health care authority or any plan offered by the
13 authority.

14 (5) "Group term life insurance coverage" means term life insurance
15 coverage provided for, at a minimum, all full-time employees in a
16 bargaining unit or all full-time nonbargaining group employees.

17 (6) "Group long-term disability insurance coverage" means long-term
18 disability insurance coverage provided for, at a minimum, all full-time
19 employees in a bargaining unit or all full-time nonbargaining group
20 employees.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.400.275 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 11 s 5 are each
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) Any contract for employee benefits executed after April 13,
24 1990, between a school district and a benefit provider or employee
25 bargaining unit is null and void unless it contains an agreement to
26 abide by state laws relating to school district employee benefits. The
27 term of the contract may not exceed one year. Beginning September 1,
28 2013, any contract for employee benefits between a school district and
29 a bargaining unit is null and void unless basic benefits are provided
30 through plans administered by the Washington state health care
31 authority.

32 (2) School districts shall (~~annually~~) submit to the Washington
33 state health care authority (~~summary descriptions of all benefits~~
34 ~~offered under the district's employee benefit plan.~~) all information
35 deemed necessary by the health care authority for the administration of
36 the employee benefit plans provided to school district employees,
37 including all information requested between the effective date of this

1 section and September 1, 2013, requested for preparing for the
2 enrollment of school district employees in benefit plans administered
3 by the Washington state health care authority. Until September 1,
4 2013, the districts shall also submit data to the health care authority
5 specifying the total number of employees and, for each employee, types
6 of coverage or benefits received including numbers of covered
7 dependents, the number of eligible dependents, the amount of the
8 district's contribution, additional premium costs paid by the employee
9 through payroll deductions, and the age and sex of the employee and
10 each dependent. The plan descriptions and the data shall be submitted
11 in a format and according to a schedule established by the health care
12 authority.

13 (3) Any benefit provider offering a benefit plan by contract with
14 a school district under subsection (1) of this section shall agree to
15 make available to the school district the benefit plan descriptions
16 and, where available, the demographic information on plan subscribers
17 that the district is required to report to the Washington state health
18 care authority under this section.

19 (4) This section shall not apply to benefit plans offered in the
20 1989-90 school year.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.400.350 and 2001 c 266 s 2 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (1)(a) The board of directors of any of the state's school
24 districts or educational service districts may make available
25 liability, life, health, health care, accident, disability and salary
26 protection or insurance or any one of, or a combination of the
27 enumerated types of insurance, or any other type of insurance or
28 protection, for the members of the boards of directors, the students,
29 and employees of the school district or educational service district,
30 and their dependents. Except as provided in (b) of this subsection,
31 such coverage may be provided by contracts with private carriers, with
32 the state health care authority after July 1, 1990, pursuant to the
33 approval of the authority administrator, or through self-insurance or
34 self-funding pursuant to chapter 48.62 RCW, or in any other manner
35 authorized by law.

36 (b) Beginning September 1, 2013, a school district or educational
37 service district shall purchase basic benefits as defined in RCW

1 28A.400.270 for employees and dependents through the state health care
2 authority, except that the coverage may be purchased through other
3 parties if required by any collective bargaining agreement signed
4 before the effective date of this section. Upon the expiration of such
5 a collective bargaining agreement, the school district or educational
6 service district shall purchase coverage through the state health care
7 authority.

8 (2) Whenever funds are available for these purposes the board of
9 directors of the school district or educational service district may
10 contribute all or a part of the cost of such protection or insurance
11 for the employees of their respective school districts or educational
12 service districts and their dependents. The premiums on such liability
13 insurance shall be borne by the school district or educational service
14 district.

15 After October 1, 1990, school districts may not contribute to any
16 employee protection or insurance other than liability insurance unless
17 the district's employee benefit plan conforms to RCW 28A.400.275 and
18 28A.400.280.

19 (3) For school board members, educational service district board
20 members, and students, the premiums due on such protection or insurance
21 shall be borne by the assenting school board member, educational
22 service district board member, or student. The school district or
23 educational service district may contribute all or part of the costs,
24 including the premiums, of life, health, health care, accident or
25 disability insurance which shall be offered to all students
26 participating in interschool activities on the behalf of or as
27 representative of their school, school district, or educational service
28 district. The school district board of directors and the educational
29 service district board may require any student participating in
30 extracurricular interschool activities to, as a condition of
31 participation, document evidence of insurance or purchase insurance
32 that will provide adequate coverage, as determined by the school
33 district board of directors or the educational service district board,
34 for medical expenses incurred as a result of injury sustained while
35 participating in the extracurricular activity. In establishing such a
36 requirement, the district shall adopt regulations for waiving or
37 reducing the premiums of such coverage as may be offered through the
38 school district or educational service district to students

1 participating in extracurricular activities, for those students whose
2 families, by reason of their low income, would have difficulty paying
3 the entire amount of such insurance premiums. The district board shall
4 adopt regulations for waiving or reducing the insurance coverage
5 requirements for low-income students in order to assure such students
6 are not prohibited from participating in extracurricular interschool
7 activities.

8 (4) All contracts for insurance or protection written to take
9 advantage of the provisions of this section shall provide that the
10 beneficiaries of such contracts may utilize on an equal participation
11 basis the services of those practitioners licensed pursuant to chapters
12 18.22, 18.25, 18.53, 18.57, and 18.71 RCW.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 41.05.011 and 2009 c 537 s 3 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
16 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (1) "Administrator" means the administrator of the authority.

18 (2) "State purchased health care" or "health care" means medical
19 and health care, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment purchased with
20 state and federal funds by the department of social and health
21 services, the department of health, the basic health plan, the state
22 health care authority, the department of labor and industries, the
23 department of corrections, the department of veterans affairs, and
24 local school districts.

25 (3) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

26 (4) "Insuring entity" means an insurer as defined in chapter 48.01
27 RCW, a health care service contractor as defined in chapter 48.44 RCW,
28 or a health maintenance organization as defined in chapter 48.46 RCW.

29 (5) "Flexible benefit plan" means a benefit plan that allows
30 employees to choose the level of health care coverage provided and the
31 amount of employee contributions from among a range of choices offered
32 by the authority.

33 (6) "Employee" includes all employees of the state, whether or not
34 covered by civil service; elected and appointed officials of the
35 executive branch of government, including full-time members of boards,
36 commissions, or committees; justices of the supreme court and judges of
37 the court of appeals and the superior courts; and members of the state

1 legislature. Pursuant to contractual agreement with the authority,
2 "employee" may also include: (a) Employees of a county, municipality,
3 or other political subdivision of the state and members of the
4 legislative authority of any county, city, or town who are elected to
5 office after February 20, 1970, if the legislative authority of the
6 county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state seeks
7 and receives the approval of the authority to provide any of its
8 insurance programs by contract with the authority, as provided in RCW
9 41.04.205 and 41.05.021(1)(g); (b) employees of employee organizations
10 representing state civil service employees, at the option of each such
11 employee organization, and, effective October 1, 1995, employees of
12 employee organizations currently pooled with employees of school
13 districts for the purpose of purchasing insurance benefits, at the
14 option of each such employee organization; (c) employees of a school
15 district or educational service district, except that prior to
16 September 1, 2013, only if the authority agrees to provide any of the
17 school districts' insurance programs by contract with the authority as
18 provided in RCW 28A.400.350; and (d) employees of a tribal government,
19 if the governing body of the tribal government seeks and receives the
20 approval of the authority to provide any of its insurance programs by
21 contract with the authority, as provided in RCW 41.05.021(1) (f) and
22 (g). "Employee" does not include: Adult family homeowners; unpaid
23 volunteers; patients of state hospitals; inmates; employees of the
24 Washington state convention and trade center as provided in RCW
25 41.05.110; students of institutions of higher education as determined
26 by their institution; and any others not expressly defined as employees
27 under this chapter or by the authority under this chapter.

28 (7) "Seasonal employee" means an employee hired to work during a
29 recurring, annual season with a duration of three months or more, and
30 anticipated to return each season to perform similar work.

31 (8) "Faculty" means an academic employee of an institution of
32 higher education whose workload is not defined by work hours but whose
33 appointment, workload, and duties directly serve the institution's
34 academic mission, as determined under the authority of its enabling
35 statutes, its governing body, and any applicable collective bargaining
36 agreement.

37 (9) "Board" means the public employees' benefits board established
38 under RCW 41.05.055.

1 (10) "Retired or disabled school employee" means:
2 (a) Persons who separated from employment with a school district or
3 educational service district and are receiving a retirement allowance
4 under chapter 41.32 or 41.40 RCW as of September 30, 1993;
5 (b) Persons who separate from employment with a school district or
6 educational service district on or after October 1, 1993, and
7 immediately upon separation receive a retirement allowance under
8 chapter 41.32, 41.35, or 41.40 RCW;
9 (c) Persons who separate from employment with a school district or
10 educational service district due to a total and permanent disability,
11 and are eligible to receive a deferred retirement allowance under
12 chapter 41.32, 41.35, or 41.40 RCW.
13 (11) "Premium payment plan" means a benefit plan whereby state and
14 public employees may pay their share of group health plan premiums with
15 pretax dollars as provided in the salary reduction plan under this
16 chapter pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Sec. 125 or other sections of the
17 internal revenue code.
18 (12) "Salary" means a state employee's monthly salary or wages.
19 (13) "Participant" means an individual who fulfills the eligibility
20 and enrollment requirements under the salary reduction plan.
21 (14) "Plan year" means the time period established by the
22 authority.
23 (15) "Separated employees" means persons who separate from
24 employment with an employer as defined in:
25 (a) RCW 41.32.010(~~(+11+)~~) (17) on or after July 1, 1996; or
26 (b) RCW 41.35.010 on or after September 1, 2000; or
27 (c) RCW 41.40.010 on or after March 1, 2002;
28 and who are at least age fifty-five and have at least ten years of
29 service under the teachers' retirement system plan 3 as defined in RCW
30 41.32.010(~~(+40+)~~) (33), the Washington school employees' retirement
31 system plan 3 as defined in RCW 41.35.010, or the public employees'
32 retirement system plan 3 as defined in RCW 41.40.010.
33 (16) "Emergency service personnel killed in the line of duty" means
34 law enforcement officers and firefighters as defined in RCW 41.26.030,
35 members of the Washington state patrol retirement fund as defined in
36 RCW 43.43.120, and reserve officers and firefighters as defined in RCW
37 41.24.010 who die as a result of injuries sustained in the course of

1 employment as determined consistent with Title 51 RCW by the department
2 of labor and industries.

3 (17) "Employer" means the state of Washington.

4 (18) "Employing agency" means a division, department, or separate
5 agency of state government, including an institution of higher
6 education; a county, municipality, school district, educational service
7 district, or other political subdivision; and a tribal government
8 covered by this chapter.

9 (19) "Tribal government" means an Indian tribal government as
10 defined in section 3(32) of the employee retirement income security act
11 of 1974, as amended, or an agency or instrumentality of the tribal
12 government, that has government offices principally located in this
13 state.

14 (20) "Dependent care assistance program" means a benefit plan
15 whereby state and public employees may pay for certain employment
16 related dependent care with pretax dollars as provided in the salary
17 reduction plan under this chapter pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Sec. 129 or
18 other sections of the internal revenue code.

19 (21) "Salary reduction plan" means a benefit plan whereby state and
20 public employees may agree to a reduction of salary on a pretax basis
21 to participate in the dependent care assistance program, medical
22 flexible spending arrangement, or premium payment plan offered pursuant
23 to 26 U.S.C. Sec. 125 or other sections of the internal revenue code.

24 (22) "Medical flexible spending arrangement" means a benefit plan
25 whereby state and public employees may reduce their salary before taxes
26 to pay for medical expenses not reimbursed by insurance as provided in
27 the salary reduction plan under this chapter pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Sec.
28 125 or other sections of the internal revenue code.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 41.05.021 and 2009 c 537 s 4 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 (1) The Washington state health care authority is created within
32 the executive branch. The authority shall have an administrator
33 appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate. The
34 administrator shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The
35 administrator may employ up to seven staff members, who shall be exempt
36 from chapter 41.06 RCW, and any additional staff members as are
37 necessary to administer this chapter. The administrator may delegate

1 any power or duty vested in him or her by this chapter, including
2 authority to make final decisions and enter final orders in hearings
3 conducted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The primary duties of the authority
4 shall be to: Administer state and school district employees' insurance
5 benefits and retired or disabled (~~school~~) employees' insurance
6 benefits; administer the basic health plan pursuant to chapter 70.47
7 RCW; study state-purchased health care programs in order to maximize
8 cost containment in these programs while ensuring access to quality
9 health care; implement state initiatives, joint purchasing strategies,
10 and techniques for efficient administration that have potential
11 application to all state-purchased health services; and administer
12 grants that further the mission and goals of the authority. The
13 authority's duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

14 (a) To administer health care benefit programs for state and school
15 district employees and retired or disabled state and school employees
16 as specifically authorized in RCW 41.05.065 and in accordance with the
17 methods described in RCW 41.05.075, 41.05.140, and other provisions of
18 this chapter;

19 (b) To analyze state-purchased health care programs and to explore
20 options for cost containment and delivery alternatives for those
21 programs that are consistent with the purposes of those programs,
22 including, but not limited to:

23 (i) Creation of economic incentives for the persons for whom the
24 state purchases health care to appropriately utilize and purchase
25 health care services, including the development of flexible benefit
26 plans to offset increases in individual financial responsibility;

27 (ii) Utilization of provider arrangements that encourage cost
28 containment, including but not limited to prepaid delivery systems,
29 utilization review, and prospective payment methods, and that ensure
30 access to quality care, including assuring reasonable access to local
31 providers, especially for employees residing in rural areas;

32 (iii) Coordination of state agency efforts to purchase drugs
33 effectively as provided in RCW 70.14.050;

34 (iv) Development of recommendations and methods for purchasing
35 medical equipment and supporting services on a volume discount basis;

36 (v) Development of data systems to obtain utilization data from
37 state-purchased health care programs in order to identify cost centers,

1 utilization patterns, provider and hospital practice patterns, and
2 procedure costs, utilizing the information obtained pursuant to RCW
3 41.05.031; and

4 (vi) In collaboration with other state agencies that administer
5 state purchased health care programs, private health care purchasers,
6 health care facilities, providers, and carriers:

7 (A) Use evidence-based medicine principles to develop common
8 performance measures and implement financial incentives in contracts
9 with insuring entities, health care facilities, and providers that:

10 (I) Reward improvements in health outcomes for individuals with
11 chronic diseases, increased utilization of appropriate preventive
12 health services, and reductions in medical errors; and

13 (II) Increase, through appropriate incentives to insuring entities,
14 health care facilities, and providers, the adoption and use of
15 information technology that contributes to improved health outcomes,
16 better coordination of care, and decreased medical errors;

17 (B) Through state health purchasing, reimbursement, or pilot
18 strategies, promote and increase the adoption of health information
19 technology systems, including electronic medical records, by hospitals
20 as defined in RCW 70.41.020(4), integrated delivery systems, and
21 providers that:

22 (I) Facilitate diagnosis or treatment;

23 (II) Reduce unnecessary duplication of medical tests;

24 (III) Promote efficient electronic physician order entry;

25 (IV) Increase access to health information for consumers and their
26 providers; and

27 (V) Improve health outcomes;

28 (C) Coordinate a strategy for the adoption of health information
29 technology systems using the final health information technology report
30 and recommendations developed under chapter 261, Laws of 2005;

31 (c) To analyze areas of public and private health care interaction;

32 (d) To provide information and technical and administrative
33 assistance to the board;

34 (e) To review and approve or deny applications from counties,
35 municipalities, and other political subdivisions of the state to
36 provide state-sponsored insurance or self-insurance programs to their
37 employees in accordance with the provisions of RCW 41.04.205 and (g) of

1 this subsection, setting the premium contribution for approved groups
2 as outlined in RCW 41.05.050;

3 (f) To review and approve or deny the application when the
4 governing body of a tribal government applies to transfer their
5 employees to an insurance or self-insurance program administered under
6 this chapter. In the event of an employee transfer pursuant to this
7 subsection (1)(f), members of the governing body are eligible to be
8 included in such a transfer if the members are authorized by the tribal
9 government to participate in the insurance program being transferred
10 from and subject to payment by the members of all costs of insurance
11 for the members. The authority shall: (i) Establish the conditions
12 for participation; (ii) have the sole right to reject the application;
13 and (iii) set the premium contribution for approved groups as outlined
14 in RCW 41.05.050. Approval of the application by the authority
15 transfers the employees and dependents involved to the insurance,
16 self-insurance, or health care program approved by the authority;

17 (g) To ensure the continued status of the employee insurance or
18 self-insurance programs administered under this chapter as a
19 governmental plan under section 3(32) of the employee retirement income
20 security act of 1974, as amended, the authority shall limit the
21 participation of employees of a county, municipal, school district,
22 educational service district, or other political subdivision, or a
23 tribal government, including providing for the participation of those
24 employees whose services are substantially all in the performance of
25 essential governmental functions, but not in the performance of
26 commercial activities;

27 (h) To establish billing procedures and collect funds from school
28 districts in a way that minimizes the administrative burden on
29 districts;

30 (i) Until September 1, 2013, to publish and distribute to
31 nonparticipating school districts and educational service districts by
32 October 1st of each year a description of health care benefit plans
33 available through the authority and the estimated cost if school
34 districts and educational service district employees were enrolled;

35 (j) To apply for, receive, and accept grants, gifts, and other
36 payments, including property and service, from any governmental or
37 other public or private entity or person, and make arrangements as to

1 the use of these receipts to implement initiatives and strategies
2 developed under this section;

3 (k) To issue, distribute, and administer grants that further the
4 mission and goals of the authority;

5 (l) To adopt rules consistent with this chapter as described in RCW
6 41.05.160 including, but not limited to:

7 (i) Setting forth the criteria established by the board under RCW
8 41.05.065 for determining whether an employee is eligible for benefits;

9 (ii) Establishing an appeal process in accordance with chapter
10 34.05 RCW by which an employee may appeal an eligibility determination;

11 (iii) Establishing a process to assure that the eligibility
12 determinations of an employing agency comply with the criteria under
13 this chapter, including the imposition of penalties as may be
14 authorized by the board.

15 (2) On and after January 1, 1996, the public employees' benefits
16 board may implement strategies to promote managed competition among
17 employee health benefit plans. Strategies may include but are not
18 limited to:

19 (a) Standardizing the benefit package;

20 (b) Soliciting competitive bids for the benefit package;

21 (c) Limiting the state's contribution to a percent of the lowest
22 priced qualified plan within a geographical area;

23 (d) Monitoring the impact of the approach under this subsection
24 with regards to: Efficiencies in health service delivery, cost shifts
25 to subscribers, access to and choice of managed care plans statewide,
26 and quality of health services. The health care authority shall also
27 advise on the value of administering a benchmark employer-managed plan
28 to promote competition among managed care plans.

29 **Sec. 6.** RCW 41.05.050 and 2009 c 537 s 5 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 (1) Every: (a) Department, division, or separate agency of state
32 government; (b) county, municipal, school district, educational service
33 district, or other political subdivisions; and (c) tribal governments
34 as are covered by this chapter, shall provide contributions to
35 insurance and health care plans for its employees and their dependents,
36 the content of such plans to be determined by the authority.
37 Contributions, paid by the county, the municipality, other political

1 subdivision, or a tribal government for their employees, shall include
2 an amount determined by the authority to pay such administrative
3 expenses of the authority as are necessary to administer the plans for
4 employees of those groups(~~(, except as provided in subsection (4) of~~
5 ~~this section)~~).

6 (2) If the authority at any time determines that the participation
7 of a county, municipal, other political subdivision, or a tribal
8 government covered under this chapter adversely impacts insurance rates
9 for state employees, the authority shall implement limitations on the
10 participation of additional county, municipal, other political
11 subdivisions, or a tribal government.

12 (3) The contributions of any: (a) Department, division, or
13 separate agency of the state government; (b) county, municipal, or
14 other political subdivisions; and (c) any tribal government as are
15 covered by this chapter, shall be set by the authority, subject to the
16 approval of the governor for availability of funds as specifically
17 appropriated by the legislature for that purpose. Insurance and health
18 care contributions for ferry employees shall be governed by RCW
19 47.64.270.

20 (4)(a) The authority shall collect from each participating school
21 district and educational service district an amount equal to the
22 composite rate charged to state agencies, plus an amount equal to the
23 employee premiums by plan and family size as would be charged to state
24 employees(~~(, for groups of district employees enrolled in authority~~
25 ~~plans. The authority may collect these amounts in accordance with the~~
26 ~~district fiscal year, as described in RCW 28A.505.030.~~

27 ~~(b) For all groups of district employees enrolling in authority~~
28 ~~plans for the first time after September 1, 2003, the authority shall~~
29 ~~collect from each participating school district an amount equal to the~~
30 ~~composite rate charged to state agencies, plus an amount equal to the~~
31 ~~employee premiums by plan and by family size as would be charged to~~
32 ~~state employees, only if the authority determines that this method of~~
33 ~~billing the districts will not result in a material difference between~~
34 ~~revenues from districts and expenditures made by the authority on~~
35 ~~behalf of districts and their employees. The authority may collect~~
36 ~~these amounts in accordance with the district fiscal year, as described~~
37 ~~in RCW 28A.505.030.~~

1 ~~(c) If the authority determines at any time that the conditions in~~
2 ~~(b) of this subsection cannot be met, the authority shall offer~~
3 ~~enrollment to additional groups of district employees on a tiered rate~~
4 ~~structure until such time as the authority determines there would be no~~
5 ~~material difference between revenues and expenditures under a composite~~
6 ~~rate structure for all district employees enrolled in authority plans.~~

7 ~~(d) The authority may charge districts a one-time set-up fee for~~
8 ~~employee groups enrolling in authority plans for the first time)).~~ The
9 authority may collect these amounts in accordance with the district
10 fiscal year.

11 ~~((e))~~ (b) For the purposes of this subsection(~~(+~~
12 ~~i))~~), "district" means school district and educational service
13 district(~~(+and~~

14 ~~(ii) "Tiered rates" means the amounts the authority must pay to~~
15 ~~insuring entities by plan and by family size.~~

16 ~~(f) Notwithstanding this subsection and RCW 41.05.065(4), the~~
17 ~~authority may allow districts enrolled on a tiered rate structure prior~~
18 ~~to September 1, 2002, to continue participation based on the same rate~~
19 ~~structure and under the same conditions and eligibility criteria)).~~

20 (5) The authority shall transmit a recommendation for the amount of
21 the employer contribution to the governor and the director of financial
22 management for inclusion in the proposed budgets submitted to the
23 legislature.

24 (6) The authority shall explore opportunities to change the start
25 of the benefit year to September to accommodate the September 1, 2013,
26 merger of school districts and educational service districts.

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