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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2498**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2016 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Caldier, Cody, DeBolt, Manweller, Walsh, Johnson, Pike, Appleton, Jinkins, Kilduff, and Gregerson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to prior authorization for dental services and  
2 supplies in medical assistance programs; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 74.09 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The authority shall convene a work group or use an existing  
8 work group to make recommendations on ways to improve the prior  
9 authorization system for dental providers who provide dental services  
10 and related supplies to clients of medical assistance programs. The  
11 objective of the work group shall be to develop a prior authorization  
12 system that protects patients against unnecessary treatments and  
13 procedures while encouraging more dentists to treat medical  
14 assistance clients and increase their access to needed dental  
15 procedures.

16 (2) The recommendations shall identify:

17 (a) Current wait times for prior authorization approvals for  
18 dental services and supplies and options for reducing the time that  
19 medical assistance clients must wait for prior authorization  
20 decisions;

1 (b) Dental services and related supplies that are currently  
2 subject to prior authorization and which dental services and supplies  
3 must remain subject to prior authorization for purposes of  
4 maintaining quality controls and consistency with federal law and  
5 which dental services and supplies may be removed from prior  
6 authorization;

7 (c) Ways to reduce the cost and administrative burden of prior  
8 authorization requirements on dental providers; and

9 (d) Options to adjust payment practices for those dental services  
10 and supplies with prior authorization requirements.

11 (3) The work group must contain representatives of dental  
12 providers in private practices, dental providers in community health  
13 centers, oral health care advocates, and other relevant stakeholders.

14 (4) By December 15, 2016, the work group shall submit its  
15 recommendations to the director of the authority and the committees  
16 of the legislature with jurisdiction over health care issues.

17 (5) This section expires July 1, 2017.

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