

FINAL BILL REPORT

2SHB 1338

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Addressing the Washington state health insurance pool.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Schmick, Jenkins, Johnson, Robinson and Riccelli).

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Health Care
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

The Washington State Health Insurance Pool (WSHIP), Washington's high risk pool, provides coverage for:

- individuals ineligible for Medicare who were enrolled in WSHIP health plans prior to January 1, 2014, and individuals ineligible for Medicare who live in a county where individual health coverage is unavailable (as of January 2017, there were no counties where individual health coverage was unavailable); and
- Medicare-eligible individuals who do not have access to a reasonable choice of Medicare Advantage plans and provide evidence of rejection for medical reasons, restrictive riders, an up-rated premium, preexisting condition limitations, or lack of access to a comprehensive Medicare supplemental plan.

The costs of coverage through the WSHIP are paid through premiums and assessments on health insurers. As of November 2016, the WSHIP had 425 enrollees in individual, non-Medicare coverage, and 1,043 enrollees in Medicare coverage.

After December 31, 2017, individual, non-Medicare coverage will no longer be offered through the WSHIP.

Summary:

The Legislature makes findings and states its intent to extend and study the Washington State Health Insurance Pool (WSHIP). The expiration date for individual, non-Medicare coverage purchased through the WSHIP is extended until December 31, 2022.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The bill is null and void unless funded in the budget.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	93	5
Senate	48	0

Effective: July 23, 2017