
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5854

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Spanel, Wood, Prentice, Winsley, Rasmussen, Hale, Kohl, McCaslin, Fairley, Long, Loveland, Franklin, Roach, Moyer, Quigley, McAuliffe, Drew and Wojahn)

Read first time 03/01/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to women's health care; adding a new section to
2 chapter 48.01 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) The specialty of obstetrics/gynecology is devoted to the
6 preventive health care of women throughout their lifetime;

7 (2) Significant numbers of women view their obstetrician/
8 gynecologist as their primary or only physician. For many women an
9 obstetrician/gynecologist is often the only physician they see
10 regularly during their reproductive years;

11 (3) A general medical examination was the second most frequently
12 cited purpose for patient visits to obstetricians/gynecologists in 1989
13 and 1990, accounting for seven million visits each year, according to
14 data gathered by the National Center for Health Statistics;

15 (4) Women are opposed to restrictions in accessing obstetricians/
16 gynecologists;

17 (5) Obstetricians/gynecologists refer their patients less
18 frequently than other primary care physicians, avoiding costly and
19 time-consuming referrals to specialists; and

1 (6) More than two-thirds of all visits to obstetricians/
2 gynecologists were made by established patients of the physician
3 returning for care of their condition according to data gathered by the
4 National Center for Health Statistics. Only four and seven-tenths
5 percent of patient visits resulted from referrals from another
6 physician.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.01 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 Health care services provided under a plan as defined in RCW
10 43.72.010, by a disability insurer regulated under chapter 48.20 or
11 48.21 RCW, by a health care service contractor as defined in RCW
12 48.44.010, by a health maintenance organization as defined in RCW
13 48.46.020, or by a provider network must include identification of
14 obstetricians and gynecologists who may be chosen as primary care
15 providers by enrollees. "Primary care provider" as used in this
16 section means that health care provider a person first consults and may
17 include a provider who refers a patient to another provider.
18 Obstetricians and gynecologists under this section must be graduated
19 from a school approved and accredited by the medical care quality
20 assurance commission under chapter 18.71 RCW or an osteopathic medicine
21 and surgery school approved by the board of osteopathic medicine under
22 chapter 18.57 RCW.

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