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HOUSE BILL 1981

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Dyer, Cody, Blalock and Tokuda; by request of Health Care Authority

Read first time 02/17/97. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care authority standards for basic health  
2 plan agents and brokers; and amending RCW 70.47.015.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.47.015 and 1995 c 265 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that the basic health plan has been an  
7 effective program in providing health coverage for uninsured residents.  
8 Further, since 1993, substantial amounts of public funds have been  
9 allocated for subsidized basic health plan enrollment.

10 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that the basic health plan  
11 enrollment be expanded expeditiously, consistent with funds available  
12 in the health services account, with the goal of two hundred thousand  
13 adult subsidized basic health plan enrollees and one hundred thirty  
14 thousand children covered through expanded medical assistance services  
15 by June 30, 1997, with the priority of providing needed health services  
16 to children in conjunction with other public programs.

17 (3) Effective January 1, 1996, basic health plan enrollees whose  
18 income is less than one hundred twenty-five percent of the federal  
19 poverty level shall pay at least a ten-dollar premium share.

1 (4) No later than July 1, 1996, the administrator shall implement  
2 procedures whereby hospitals licensed under chapters 70.41 and 71.12  
3 RCW, health carrier, rural health care facilities regulated under  
4 chapter 70.175 RCW, and community and migrant health centers funded  
5 under RCW 41.05.220, may expeditiously assist patients and their  
6 families in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance  
7 coverage, and in submitting such applications directly to the health  
8 care authority or the department of social and health services. The  
9 health care authority and the department of social and health services  
10 shall make every effort to simplify and expedite the application and  
11 enrollment process.

12 (5) No later than July 1, 1996, the administrator shall implement  
13 procedures whereby health insurance agents and brokers, licensed under  
14 chapter 48.17 RCW, may expeditiously assist patients and their families  
15 in applying for basic health plan or medical assistance coverage, and  
16 in submitting such applications directly to the health care authority  
17 or the department of social and health services. The administrator may  
18 establish: (a) Minimum educational requirements that must be completed  
19 by the agents or brokers; (b) an appointment process for agents or  
20 brokers marketing the basic health plan; or (c) standards for  
21 revocation of the appointment of an agent or broker to submit  
22 applications for cause, including untrustworthy or incompetent conduct  
23 or harm to the public. Brokers and agents shall be entitled to receive  
24 a commission for each individual sale of the basic health plan to  
25 anyone not ((~~at anytime previously~~)) signed up within the previous five  
26 years and a commission for each group sale of the basic health plan.  
27 No commission shall be provided upon a renewal. Commissions shall be  
28 determined based on the estimated annual cost of the basic health plan,  
29 however, commissions shall not result in a reduction in the premium  
30 amount paid to health carriers. For purposes of this section "health  
31 carrier" is as defined in RCW 48.43.005. The health care authority and  
32 the department of social and health services shall make every effort to  
33 simplify and expedite the application and enrollment process.

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