
Health Care Committee

SSB 5471

Brief Description: Authorizing a prescription drug purchasing consortium.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Keiser, Fraser, Berkey, Poulsen, Kline, Franklin, Brown, Haugen, McAuliffe, Rockefeller and Kohl-Welles; by request of Governor Gregoire).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- The Health Care Authority will establish a prescription drug purchasing consortium that may include private citizens, local governments, and other entities.

Hearing Date: 3/18/05

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

Agencies that administer state purchased health care programs participate in an evidence-based prescription drug purchasing program. Based on the findings of an independent pharmacy and therapeutics committee, a preferred drug list is established and negotiations with pharmaceutical manufacturers result in discounted prescription drug prices for state purchased health care programs. Only state agencies participate in the evidence-based prescription drug purchasing program.

Summary of Bill:

The Administrator of the Health Care Authority (Authority) will establish a prescription drug purchasing consortium, whose activities must be based on the state's existing evidence-based prescription drug purchasing program.

In addition to state agencies, the consortium may include, on a voluntary basis, local government, private entities, labor organizations, and individuals without insurance, or who are underinsured for prescription drug coverage. The Authority may impose fees on participants to cover the administrative expense of operating the purchasing consortium. An 11 member advisory committee is created to advise the Authority on the implementation of the purchasing consortium. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee will complete a performance audit of consortium operations and outcomes by December 1, 2008.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.