

E2SSB 6128 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED 03/04/2020

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) In Washington and across the country,
4 maternal mortality rates continue to be unacceptably high.
5 Approximately seven hundred people die each year in the United States
6 due to pregnancy-related conditions. The majority of these deaths are
7 preventable.

8 (2) Maternal mortality data reveal significant racial and ethnic
9 disparities. In this state, American Indian and Alaska native women
10 are six to seven times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related
11 cause than white women.

12 (3) The centers for disease control and prevention define the
13 postpartum period as extending one year after the end of pregnancy,
14 and data show that health needs continue during that entire year. In
15 Washington, nearly one-third of all pregnancy-related deaths and the
16 majority of suicides and accidental overdoses occurred between forty-
17 three and three hundred sixty-five days postpartum.

18 (4) The maternal mortality review panel has identified access to
19 health care services and gaps in continuity of care, especially
20 during the postpartum period, as factors that contribute to
21 preventable pregnancy-related deaths. In their October 2019 report to
22 the legislature, the panel recommended ensuring funding and access to
23 postpartum care and support through the first year after pregnancy.

24 (5) Postpartum medicaid coverage currently ends sixty days after
25 pregnancy, creating an unsafe gap in coverage. Continuity of care is
26 critical during this vulnerable time, and uninterrupted health
27 insurance provides birthing parents with access to stable and
28 consistent care. Extending health care coverage through the first
29 year postpartum is one of the best tools for increasing access to
30 care and improving maternal and infant health.

31 (6) The legislature therefore intends to extend health care
32 coverage from sixty days to twelve months postpartum. Nothing in this

1 act is intended to limit eligibility or reduce benefits that are
2 available to pregnant or postpartum persons as of the effective date
3 of this section.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The authority shall provide health care coverage to all
7 postpartum persons who reside in Washington state, have countable
8 income equal to or below one hundred ninety-three percent of the
9 federal poverty level, and are not otherwise eligible for full scope
10 coverage under Title XIX or Title XXI of the federal social security
11 act. Health care coverage under this section must be extended by an
12 additional ten months, for those enrolled postpartum persons who are
13 eligible under pregnancy eligibility rules at the end of the sixty
14 day postpartum period, to provide a total of twelve months postpartum
15 coverage. To ensure continuity of care and maximize the efficiency of
16 the program, the amount, scope, and duration of health care services
17 provided to individuals under this section must be the same as that
18 provided to pregnant and postpartum persons under medical assistance,
19 as defined in RCW 74.09.520.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** To allow the state to receive federal
21 matching funds for the coverage of postpartum persons identified in
22 section 2 of this act, the authority shall: (1) Seek any available
23 federal financial participation under the medical assistance program,
24 as codified at Title XIX of the federal social security act, the
25 state children's health insurance program, as codified at Title XXI
26 of the federal social security act, and any other federal funding
27 sources that are now available or may become available in the future;
28 and (2) no later than January 1, 2021, submit a waiver request to the
29 federal centers for medicare and medicaid services. The authority
30 shall report to the legislature on the status of the waiver request
31 by January 1, 2021, and inform the legislature of any statutory
32 changes necessary to allow the state to receive federal match for the
33 coverage of postpartum persons identified in section 2 of this act.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act takes effect when
35 the state becomes eligible to receive federal financial participation
36 for health care coverage for persons with countable income at or

1 below one hundred ninety-three percent of the federal poverty level
2 through twelve months postpartum.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The health care authority must provide
4 written notice of the effective date of section 2 of this act to the
5 affected parties, the chief clerk of the house of representatives,
6 the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and
7 others deemed appropriate by the health care authority."

8 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the state-only funded program that ramps up
eligibility requirements for twelve months of postpartum Medicaid
coverage. Conditions the implementation of extending Medicaid
coverage to a total of twelve months postpartum on the state's
eligibility for federal financial participation.

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