
SENATE BILL 5201

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Skratek, Roach, L. Smith, Loveland, Niemi, Prentice, Moore, von Reichbauer, Bluechel, Pelz and Erwin

Read first time 01/15/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to a naturopath pilot program for basic health plan
2 and health care authority coverage; and adding a new section to chapter
3 41.05 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that the existing statutory system of
8 health care regulation strongly favors allopathic medical care. The
9 legislature finds that naturopathic medicine may provide a cost-
10 effective alternative to allopathic medical care. A limited pilot
11 program will help provide needed information to determine the
12 following: If naturopathic care as primary care is made widely
13 available through managed health care plans(a) would persons choose it,
14 (b) would the health outcomes of these naturopathic care patients be
15 better or worse than similarly situated allopathic care patients, and
16 (c) would the availability of naturopathic care be effective in
17 containing costs.

18 (2)(a) The state health care authority shall establish a pilot
19 program that is designed to determine whether the availability of

1 naturopathic care will result in improved health outcomes and cost
2 savings.

3 (b) The pilot program shall be made available to state employees
4 covered by the state health care authority under this chapter and to
5 enrollees of the basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW.

6 (c) The pilot program shall provide that state employees and basic
7 health plan enrollees may voluntarily choose a health care benefit plan
8 or managed health care system in which primary clinical care and
9 clinical decision making is performed by naturopathic physicians
10 licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW.

11 (d) The capitated rate under the pilot program must be no greater
12 than the average cost under managed health care systems.

13 (e) As a condition to enrollment in the pilot program, participants
14 waive the right to legal action against the state or any of its
15 agencies for care provided by naturopathic physicians under the scope
16 of this section.

17 (3) The health care authority shall report to the legislature by
18 December 1, 1995, on the results of the pilot program.

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