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**SENATE BILL 5947**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Moore and Moyer

Read first time 03/02/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to health care coverage for the immunization and  
2 vaccination of children; adding a new section to chapter 48.20 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 48.21 RCW; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 48.44 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.46 RCW; and  
5 creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that childhood  
8 communicable diseases constitute a serious threat to the health of  
9 children and that the prevention of these diseases is a readily  
10 achievable goal; the effectiveness of childhood vaccinations to save  
11 lives and prevent debilitating disease has been well documented;  
12 certain vaccinations are already required as a condition to entering  
13 school in Washington; and the full immunization of all children  
14 continues to be sound public policy.

15 Vaccination is among the most cost-effective components of  
16 preventive medical care, and it is in the financial best interest of  
17 the state and health care insurers to provide for the full immunization  
18 of all children. It is therefore the purpose of this act to require

1 every contract or insurance policy for health care of benefits to  
2 provide coverage for the immunization and vaccination of children.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.20 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 Each policy issued on or after January 1, 1994, except for policies  
6 that only provide coverage for specified diseases or limited benefit  
7 coverage, shall provide coverage for the immunization and vaccination  
8 of children. For the purposes of this section, such vaccinations must  
9 cover smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, typhoid,  
10 measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenza (systemic), pneumococcal  
11 disease, and those other diseases for which vaccines have and will have  
12 been developed in the future and are recognized as effective by the  
13 state board of health.

14 The vaccinations covered in this section are subject to coinsurance  
15 provisions that may be in force in the policy.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.21 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 Each group disability insurance contract issued on or after January  
19 1, 1994, except for contracts that only provide coverage for specified  
20 diseases or limited benefit coverage, shall provide coverage for the  
21 immunization and vaccination of children. For the purposes of this  
22 section, such vaccinations must cover smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis,  
23 tetanus, polio, typhoid, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenza  
24 (systemic), pneumococcal disease, and those other diseases for which  
25 vaccines have and will have been developed in the future and are  
26 recognized as effective by the state board of health.

27 The vaccinations covered in this section are subject to coinsurance  
28 provisions that may be in force in the contract.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 48.44 RCW  
30 to read as follows:

31 Each health care service plan contract issued on or after January  
32 1, 1994, except for contracts that only provide coverage for specified  
33 diseases or limited benefit coverage, shall provide coverage for the  
34 immunization and vaccination of children. For the purposes of this  
35 section, such vaccinations must cover smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis,  
36 tetanus, polio, typhoid, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenza

1 (systemic), pneumococcal disease, and those other diseases for which  
2 vaccines have and will have been developed in the future and are  
3 recognized as effective by the state board of health.

4 The vaccinations covered in this section are subject to coinsurance  
5 provisions that may be in force in the contract.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 48.46 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 Each agreement issued on or after January 1, 1994, except for  
9 agreements that only provide coverage for specified diseases or limited  
10 benefit coverage, shall provide coverage for the immunization and  
11 vaccination of children. For the purposes of this section, such  
12 vaccinations must cover smallpox, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus,  
13 polio, typhoid, measles, mumps, rubella, hemophilus influenza  
14 (systemic), pneumococcal disease, and those other diseases for which  
15 vaccines have and will have been developed in the future and are  
16 recognized as effective by the state board of health.

17 The vaccinations covered in this section are subject to coinsurance  
18 provisions that may be in force in the agreement.

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