
SENATE BILL 5985

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Moore, Moyer, Prentice, Pelz, Deccio, Amondson, Fraser, Wojahn and Quigley

Read first time 04/13/93. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to childhood vaccines; adding a new chapter to
2 Title 70 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds and declares that:

5 (a) Childhood communicable diseases constitute a serious threat to
6 the public health of the people of this state, and the prevention of
7 childhood disease is a goal of its people.

8 (b) The effectiveness of childhood vaccines to save lives and
9 prevent debilitating disease has been well documented.

10 (c) Administration of certain vaccines is required by law as a
11 condition of entry into school in this state.

12 (d) Full immunization of all children continues to be sound public
13 policy and is reaffirmed here.

14 (e) Vaccines are among the most cost-effective components of
15 preventive medical care: For every dollar spent on childhood
16 immunization, ten dollars are saved in later medical costs.

17 (f) It is in the financial interest of the state and of health care
18 insurers to provide immunizations for all children.

1 (2) The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that all children in
2 this state receive all well-baby, well-child care including
3 immunizations and that such care is funded by the appropriate payer.
4 To further that purpose the state intends to provide all covered
5 vaccines to all medicaid-eligible children and for all children not
6 eligible for medicaid who are not otherwise covered by health
7 insurance. For children covered by private health care insurance
8 policies, it is the intent of this chapter to require that all health
9 care policies reimburse for well-baby, well-child care including
10 covered vaccines, and that children with private insurance coverage do
11 not receive vaccines purchased with public funds.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
13 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
14 chapter.

15 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

16 (2) "Covered vaccine" means those vaccines recommended by
17 guidelines of the centers for disease control and/or the American
18 academy of pediatrics to be administered to a child. "Covered vaccine"
19 means, without limitation, the following specific vaccines:

20 (a) Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP);

21 (b) Polio: Oral polio vaccine (OPV) or intramuscular polio vaccine
22 (IPV);

23 (c) Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR);

24 (d) Haemophilus influenza type b conjugate vaccine (Hib);

25 (e) Pneumococcal vaccine, when medically indicated.

26 (3) "Practitioner" means a doctor of medicine, a doctor of
27 osteopathy, or other person who is permitted and otherwise qualified to
28 administer vaccines under the laws of this state.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** It is the obligation of all insurers
30 providing health care coverage for any person within this state without
31 regard to business organization, licensing authority, or whether the
32 coverage is self-insurance, to make well-baby, well-child care,
33 including all covered vaccines available to all children covered by
34 insurance without deductible or copay. Providers shall be reimbursed
35 the full cost of the vaccine plus a reasonable fee for administration.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall:

1 (1) Purchase covered vaccines in sufficient quantity to achieve the
2 purposes of this chapter;

3 (2) Secure and maintain such facilities as may be necessary for the
4 safe and adequate preservation and storage of such vaccines;

5 (3) Distribute, free of any purchase, shipping, handling, or other
6 charges, such vaccines to practitioners who qualify under section 5 of
7 this act for administration to those children who are medicaid
8 recipients or who are not medicaid-eligible but are not otherwise
9 covered by health insurance; and

10 (4) Pay an administration fee to providers of covered vaccines, as
11 set by rule.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** In order to receive covered vaccines for
13 administration to children under this chapter, a practitioner shall
14 agree:

15 (1) Not to impose on the child recipient, the child's parents, a
16 third-party payer, or any other person, any charge for such vaccine;

17 (2) To provide documentation to the department detailing the
18 vaccines administered, the dates of administration, and the names and
19 dates of birth of the children to whom administered; and

20 (3) To use vaccines provided by the state only for those children
21 who are medicaid recipients or who are not medicaid-eligible and are
22 not covered by other health insurance.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Public health clinics shall not provide
24 immunizations to children who have private health insurance coverage.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
26 childhood vaccine act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act shall
28 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The sum of three million dollars, or as much
30 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
31 June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the department of health for
32 the purposes of this act.

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