

5423

Sponsor(s): Senators Fairley, McAuliffe, Kohl-Welles, Patterson, Franklin, Eide, Regala, Shin, Oke, Winsley, Kline, Prentice, Costa, Long, Carlson, Thibaudeau, Parlette, Gardner and Rasmussen; by request of Governor Locke

Brief Description: Continuing health care benefits for individuals with disabilities.

**SB 5423 - DIGEST**

Finds that individuals with disabilities face many barriers and disincentives to employment. Individuals with disabilities are often unable to obtain health insurance that provides the services and supports necessary to allow them to live independently and enter or rejoin the work force.

Finds that there is a compelling public interest in eliminating barriers to work by continuing needed health care coverage for individuals with disabilities who enter and maintain employment.

Declares an intent to strengthen the state's policy of supporting individuals with disabilities in leading fully productive lives by supporting the implementation of the federal ticket to work and work incentives improvement act of 1999, Public Law 106-170. This shall include improving incentives to work by continuing coverage for health care and support services, by seeking federal funding for innovative programs, and by exploring options which provide individuals with disabilities a choice in receiving services needed to obtain and maintain employment.