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HOUSE BILL 3184

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Clibborn, Simpson, G., Ormsby, Santos, Upthegrove, Darneille, Morrell, Hudgins and Conway

Read first time 02/04/2004. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to health insurance coverage for children; and  
2 creating new sections.

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

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

5 (a) The health of the children of Washington state is critical to  
6 their success in school and throughout their lives. Children with  
7 health insurance coverage have better health outcomes than those who  
8 lack coverage. Children without health insurance coverage are more  
9 likely to be in poor health and more likely to delay receiving, or go  
10 without, needed health care services; and

11 (b) Access to preventive and well-child health services for  
12 children are a cost-effective investment of both public and private  
13 dollars that improve the health of children and of our communities at  
14 large.

15 (2) It is therefore the intent of the legislature to provide access  
16 to health insurance coverage for all children in the state of  
17 Washington by 2008, by building upon and strengthening the successes of  
18 employer-sponsored health insurance coverage and publicly supported  
19 children's health insurance programs.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The administrator of the health care  
2 authority shall conduct a study and prepare recommendations to the  
3 legislature to achieve the goal of providing access to health insurance  
4 coverage for all children in the state of Washington by 2008. The  
5 report and recommendations must be submitted to the governor and  
6 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004.

7        (2) In conducting the study and preparing recommendations, the  
8 administrator of the health care authority shall establish and actively  
9 consult with an advisory committee that includes representatives of at  
10 least the following individuals or entities: Consumers, including  
11 people with disabilities and communities of color; health care  
12 providers and facilities; health insurance carriers; academic or health  
13 care research institutions; the department of social and health  
14 services; the department of health; and the state board of health.

15        (3) The administrator, in consultation with the advisory committee,  
16 shall, in its report to the governor and the legislature:

17        (a) Examine and address the following:

18        (i) Current rates of health care coverage among children in the  
19 state of Washington;

20        (ii) The role of medicaid, the state children's health insurance  
21 program, and other publicly funded programs in providing health care  
22 coverage to children in the state of Washington, including the extent  
23 to which administrative requirements related to applications for  
24 coverage and to continuing eligibility verification affect the  
25 participation in the programs of children who are eligible for these  
26 programs;

27        (iii) The role of employer-sponsored health insurance in providing  
28 health care coverage to children in the state of Washington; and

29        (iv) The experiences of other states that have attempted to provide  
30 health care coverage for children, including the approaches they have  
31 taken to providing coverage, the extent to which they have integrated  
32 the provision of proven preventive health services into coverage, and  
33 the results of their efforts; and

34        (b) Provide a recommended system to achieve the goal of providing  
35 access to health insurance coverage for all children in the state of  
36 Washington by 2008, including recommendations related to delivery of

1 health services, integrating the provision of proven preventive health  
2 services, and financing.

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