
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1738

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Bailey, Schual-Berke, Fromhold, Woods, Upthegrove, Williams, Darneille, Kenney, Hunt, Campbell, Simpson, Tom, Hasegawa, Haler and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to an early detection breast and cervical cancer
2 screening program; and adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that Washington state has the highest
7 incidence of breast cancer in the nation. Despite this, mortality
8 rates from breast cancer have declined due largely to early screening
9 and detection. Invasive cervical cancer is the most preventable type
10 of cancer. The Pap test, used to detect early signs of this disease,
11 has been called "medicine's most successful screening test." Applied
12 consistently, invasive cervical cancer could nearly be eliminated. The
13 legislature further finds that increasing access to breast and cervical
14 cancer screening is critical to reducing incidence and mortality rates,
15 and eliminating the disparities of this disease in women in Washington
16 state. Furthermore, the legislature finds there is a need for a
17 permanent program providing early detection and screening to the women
18 and families of Washington state.

1 It is the intent of the legislature to establish an early detection
2 breast and cervical cancer screening program as a voluntary screening
3 program directed at reducing mortalities through early detection to be
4 offered to eligible women only as funds are available.

5 (2) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Eligible woman" means a woman who is age forty to sixty-four,
7 and whose income is at or below two hundred fifty percent of the
8 federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal department
9 of health and human services. Priority enrollment shall be given to
10 women as defined by the federal national breast and cervical cancer
11 early detection program, under P.L. 101-354.

12 (b) "Approved providers" means those state-supported health
13 providers, radiology facilities, and cytological laboratories that are
14 recognized by the department as meeting the minimum program policies
15 and procedures adopted by the department to qualify under the federal
16 national breast and cervical cancer early detection program, and are
17 designated as eligible for funding by the department.

18 (c) "Comprehensive" means a screening program that focuses on
19 breast and cervical cancer screening as a preventive health measure,
20 and includes diagnostic and case management services.

21 (3) The department of health is authorized to administer a state-
22 supported early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program
23 to assist eligible women with preventive health services. To the
24 extent of available funding, eligible women may be enrolled in the
25 early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program and
26 additional eligible women may be enrolled to the extent that grants and
27 contributions from community sources provide sufficient funds for
28 expanding the program.

29 (4) Funds appropriated for the state program shall be used only to
30 operate early detection breast and cervical cancer screening programs
31 that have been approved by the department, or to increase access to
32 existing state-approved programs, and shall not supplant federally
33 supported breast and cervical cancer early detection programs.

34 (5) Enrollment in the early detection breast and cervical cancer
35 screening program shall not result in expenditures that exceed the
36 amount that has been appropriated for the program in the operating
37 budget. If it appears that continued enrollment will result in
38 expenditures exceeding the appropriated level for a particular fiscal

1 year, the department may freeze new enrollment in the program. Nothing
2 in this section prevents the department from continuing enrollment in
3 the program if there are adequate private or public funds in addition
4 to those appropriated in the biennial budget to support the cost of
5 such enrollment.

6 (6) The department shall establish a medical advisory committee
7 composed of interested medical professionals and consumer liaisons with
8 expertise in a variety of areas relevant to breast and cervical health
9 to provide expert medical advice and guidance. The medical advisory
10 committee shall address national, state, and local concerns regarding
11 best practices in the field of early prevention and detection for
12 breast and cervical cancer and assist the early detection breast and
13 cervical cancer screening program in implementing program policy that
14 follows the best practices of high quality health care for clinical,
15 diagnostic, pathologic, radiological, and oncology services.

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