
HOUSE BILL 1490

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle, Cody, Moeller, Linville and Wood

Read first time 01/22/2007. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to a consumer-directed medicaid coverage plan; and
2 creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a
5 significant disconnect in the state's medicaid program between
6 recipients and those delivering and paying for their care. Medicaid
7 recipients are not empowered to make decisions regarding their own
8 health care needs. Nor are there incentives for medicaid recipients to
9 be prudent purchasers of health care. The legislature further finds
10 that there are a significant number of medicaid recipients who are only
11 temporarily on medicaid and will need to transition to employer-
12 sponsored health insurance or purchase health care in the private
13 market.

14 The federal deficit reduction act of 2005 allows states to redesign
15 their medicaid programs, creating more flexibility in benefit and cost-
16 sharing designs and giving enrollees more opportunity to decide how
17 they use their health care benefits. Specifically, the deficit
18 reduction act allows for ten states to operate medicaid demonstration
19 programs to test alternative systems to deliver medicaid benefits

1 through a health opportunity account in combination with a high
2 deductible health plan. Washington state should continue to be a
3 leader in health care policy and submit a state plan amendment to the
4 center for medicaid and medicare to be one of the ten states to
5 implement a health opportunity account demonstration program.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health services
7 shall submit a state plan amendment to the center for medicaid and
8 medicare services to be one of the ten states to operate a medicaid
9 demonstration program to test alternative systems to deliver medicaid
10 benefits through a health opportunity account. The state plan
11 amendment shall be in compliance with federal deficit reduction act of
12 2005 and other rules or directives provided by the center for medicaid
13 and medicare services. The state plan amendment shall also identify
14 individuals eligible to receive transitional medical assistance as the
15 target population to participate in this demonstration project.

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