

**2SSB 5491** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature intends to promote  
4 equity of coverage for all public employees through better coordination  
5 of employee benefits.

6 (2) The legislature finds that there is currently a compelling  
7 interest in providing health care coverage to certificated and  
8 classified K-12 employees in the most cost-effective manner. The  
9 legislature finds that this may be accomplished by covering  
10 certificated and classified K-12 employees through a large pool.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The health care authority shall develop  
12 a plan for reducing the cost of providing health benefits for  
13 certificated and classified K-12 employees. The health care authority  
14 must allow interested parties to provide comments and suggestions  
15 related to the plan.

16 (2) The health care authority shall present the plan to the  
17 governor and the fiscal committees of the senate and the house of  
18 representatives by December 15, 2009. The plan must state  
19 recommendations for the funding and procurement of health benefits for  
20 certificated and classified K-12 employees and include an analysis of  
21 the possibility of centralizing the provision of health benefits for  
22 certificated and classified K-12 employees by the health care  
23 authority. The plan must also include recommendations related to  
24 legislation that is deemed necessary to implement the recommendations  
25 of the health care authority set out in the plan.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By July 31, 2009, all school districts  
27 and educational service districts shall forward the following 2007-2008

1 plan year and 2008-2009 plan year data, current to March 2009, for each  
2 employee pooling group to the health care authority and the office of  
3 the superintendent of public instruction:

4 (a) Age and gender of covered employees;

5 (b) Age and gender of covered dependents; and

6 (c) Reports developed from health plan claims information that show  
7 counts of covered employees and dependents by diagnosis condition  
8 category.

9 (2) Contracted health carriers and self-insured plan administrators  
10 shall assist school districts and educational service districts in  
11 developing and submitting the information required in subsection (1) of  
12 this section.

13 (3) By July 31, 2009, all school districts and educational service  
14 districts shall forward the following information by employee pooling  
15 group, as in effect March 2009, to the health care authority and the  
16 office of the superintendent of public instruction:

17 (a) The cost of employee health benefits including employee  
18 premiums by plan and by employee tier;

19 (b) Health insurance benefit designs; and

20 (c) Eligibility criteria.

21 (4) Contracted health carriers and self-insured plan administrators  
22 shall assist school districts and educational service districts in  
23 developing and submitting the information required in subsection (3) of  
24 this section.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
28 immediately."

29 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Directs the health care authority to study the  
feasibility of improving the cost-effectiveness of health care  
purchasing for K-12 employees.

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