
HOUSE BILL 1810

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Schmick and Tharinger

Read first time 01/31/19. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to rural health payment changes by the health
2 care authority; and adding a new section to chapter 74.09 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 74.09
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature recognizes the importance that rural health
7 delivery systems play in maintaining the health of Washington's rural
8 residents and the economic vitality of rural communities.

9 (2) The authority shall take advantage of federal opportunities
10 to transform care delivery and enhance the financial viability of
11 rural facilities and providers through improved systems of medicare
12 and medicaid payment. In negotiating any rural health payment changes
13 with the centers for medicare and medicaid services, the authority
14 shall ensure any new system meets the following parameters:

15 (a) The system has been modeled to show short-term and long-term
16 financial viability for all types of rural hospitals, including sole
17 community hospitals, rural prospective payment system hospitals, and
18 all size critical access hospitals;

19 (b) The system does not require significant state investment on a
20 long-term basis for an oversight board;

1 (c) Hospital representatives have an opportunity to participate
2 in negotiations with the centers for medicare and medicaid services;
3 and

4 (d) The system respects local hospital decision making by having
5 voluntary participation in a new payment system.

6 (3) The authority shall not enter into an agreement on a new
7 rural health payment system with the centers for medicare and
8 medicaid services without prior review and approval from the
9 legislature.

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