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**SENATE BILL 5942**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Muzzall, Hasegawa, Lovick, Valdez, C. Wilson, and L. Wilson

Prefiled 01/02/24. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to implementing audit recommendations on lead  
2 testing for children enrolled in medicaid; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 43.70 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an  
4 expiration date.

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

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

8 (1) The department shall create a plan to identify and assess  
9 communities in the state that are the most at risk for lead exposure.  
10 The communities in the assessment may be organized by the census  
11 tract or zip code. The department shall ensure that health care  
12 providers have access to the community-level risk assessments. The  
13 assessments must be conducted on an annual basis.

14 (2) The department shall finalize and fully execute a data-  
15 sharing agreement with the health care authority by no later than  
16 July 1, 2024. The purpose of the data-sharing agreement is to conduct  
17 a coordinated analysis to determine the extent to which children  
18 enrolled in medicaid are receiving required lead tests and whether  
19 children at the highest risk are receiving required testing. The  
20 highest risk designation is based on the risk analysis conducted as  
21 required in subsection (1) of this section.

1 (3) The department shall launch and implement the childhood lead  
2 testing promotion plan by December 1, 2024. The testing plan must be  
3 updated and published by December 31, 2024, and annually thereafter.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By no later than January 31, 2025, the  
5 health care authority shall:

6 (a) Establish performance measures and data collection criteria  
7 to monitor whether all children enrolled in medicaid are receiving  
8 all required blood lead tests; and

9 (b) Clarify the contract language for managed care organizations  
10 and establish clear expectations for blood lead testing and the  
11 internal performance measures and thresholds regarding medicaid  
12 testing requirements.

13 (2) The health care authority, in collaboration with the  
14 department of health, shall:

15 (a)(i) Ensure all guidance and information received by health  
16 care providers from the state about the medicaid blood lead testing  
17 requirement is clear and consistent; and

18 (ii) Include the contact information for who to contact if a  
19 provider has questions about the requirements; and

20 (b) Create a communication plan to ensure that health care  
21 providers in the state understand the requirement and how to  
22 implement the requirement.

23 (3) The health care authority shall provide additional guidance  
24 and information to medicaid providers on blood lead testing  
25 requirements including, but not limited to, suggestions on how to  
26 increase testing rates and compliance, such as with in-office lead  
27 testing and system prompts for health care providers while at the  
28 point-of-care with a patient.

29 (4) The health care authority, in consultation with the  
30 department of health, shall submit to the governor and the  
31 appropriate committees of the legislature a preliminary report no  
32 later than December 1, 2024, and a final report no later than June  
33 30, 2025, that includes a summary of the work conducted in this  
34 section and any other work conducted to address the performance audit  
35 by the office of the state auditor on lead testing for children  
36 enrolled in medicaid.

37 (5) This section expires July 30, 2026.

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