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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2242**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Bronoske, Doglio, Parshley, Simmons, Berry, Ramel, Thomas, Ormsby, Thai, Macri, Fosse, Hill, Pollet, Obras, Wylie, and Zahn; by request of Governor Ferguson and Insurance Commissioner)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to preserving access to preventive services by  
2 clarifying state authority and definitions; amending RCW 48.43.047,  
3 70.290.010, and 70.290.040; adding a new section to chapter 43.70  
4 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.28 RCW; creating a new  
5 section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature to  
8 preserve access to evidence-based preventive health services for  
9 people residing in Washington state who choose to use such services.

10 (2) The legislature does not intend to establish new requirements  
11 that any individual receive any immunization or other preventive  
12 health service, nor does the legislature intend to modify, limit, or  
13 expand existing laws related to informed consent for health care  
14 decisions for minors or adults.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 The department may issue immunization recommendations and related  
18 guidance. In developing its recommendations, the department must  
19 consider the recommendations of the advisory committee on  
20 immunization practices of the United States centers for disease

1 control and prevention and experts and expert organizations that the  
2 department in its discretion deems relevant and based on reasonable  
3 scientific evidence and judgment. Any recommendations or guidance  
4 issued by the department under this section shall be posted on the  
5 department's website. Any recommendations or guidance issued by the  
6 department under this section are not subject to the rule-making  
7 requirements of chapter 34.05 RCW.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 48.43.047 and 2024 c 314 s 1 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) A nongrandfathered health plan issued on or after (~~June 6,~~  
11 ~~2024,~~) April 1, 2026, must, at a minimum, provide coverage for the  
12 following preventive services (~~as the recommendations or guidelines~~  
13 ~~existed on January 8, 2024~~):

14 (a) Evidence-based items or services that have a rating of A or B  
15 in the (~~current~~) recommendations of the United States preventive  
16 services task force in effect on June 30, 2025, and items and  
17 services included in rules adopted by the insurance commissioner  
18 under this section with respect to the enrollee;

19 (b) (~~Immunizations for routine use in children, adolescents, and~~  
20 ~~adults that have in effect a recommendation from the advisory~~  
21 ~~committee on immunization practices of the centers for disease~~  
22 ~~control and prevention with respect to the enrollee. For purposes of~~  
23 ~~this subsection, a recommendation from the advisory committee on~~  
24 ~~immunization practices of the centers for disease control and~~  
25 ~~prevention is considered in effect after the recommendation has been~~  
26 ~~adopted by the director of the centers for disease control and~~  
27 ~~prevention, and a recommendation is considered to be for routine use~~  
28 ~~if the recommendation is listed on the immunization schedules of the~~  
29 ~~centers for disease control and prevention;~~

30 (~~e~~)) With respect to infants, children, and adolescents,  
31 evidence-informed preventive care and screenings provided for in  
32 comprehensive guidelines supported by the health resources and  
33 services administration in effect on June 30, 2025, and preventive  
34 care and screenings included in rules adopted by the insurance  
35 commissioner under this section; (~~and~~

36 (~~d~~)) (c) With respect to women, additional preventive care and  
37 screenings that are not listed with a rating of A or B by the United  
38 States preventive services task force but that are provided for in  
39 comprehensive guidelines supported by the health resources and

1 services administration in effect on June 30, 2025, and preventive  
2 care and screenings included in rules adopted by the insurance  
3 commissioner under this section; and

4 (d) Immunizations that have in effect a recommendation from the  
5 department of health under section 2 of this act.

6 (2) A nongrandfathered health plan must provide coverage for  
7 ~~((the))~~:

8 (a) The preventive services required to be covered under  
9 subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section consistent with federal  
10 rules and guidance related to coverage of such preventive services in  
11 effect on ((January 8, 2024)) June 30, 2025, and rules adopted by the  
12 insurance commissioner under this section; and

13 (b) Immunizations required to be covered under subsection (1)(d)  
14 of this section consistent with department of health guidance issued  
15 under section 2 of this act.

16 (3) A nongrandfathered health plan must provide coverage for the  
17 preventive services required to be covered under subsections (1) and  
18 (2) of this section for plan years that begin on or after the date  
19 that is one year after the date the recommendation or guideline is  
20 issued.

21 ~~(4) ((A nongrandfathered health plan is no longer required to~~  
22 ~~provide coverage for particular items or services specified in the~~  
23 ~~recommendations or guidelines described in subsection (1) of this~~  
24 ~~section if such a recommendation or guideline is revised by the~~  
25 ~~recommending entities described in subsection (1) of this section to~~  
26 ~~no longer include the preventive item or service as defined in~~  
27 ~~subsection (1) of this section.~~

28 ~~(5) Annually, a health carrier shall determine whether any~~  
29 ~~additional items or services must be covered without cost-sharing~~  
30 ~~requirements or whether any items or services are no longer required~~  
31 ~~to be covered as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.~~  
32 ~~The carrier's determination must be included in its health plan~~  
33 ~~filings submitted to the commissioner.~~

34 ~~(6))~~ (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the health  
35 plan may not impose cost-sharing requirements for the preventive  
36 services required to be covered under subsections (1) and (2) of this  
37 section when the services are provided by an in-network provider. If  
38 a plan does not have in its network a provider who can provide an  
39 item or service described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section,  
40 the plan must cover the item or service when performed by an out-of-

1 network provider and may not impose cost sharing with respect to the  
2 item or service.

3 ~~((If any portion of 42 U.S.C. Sec. 300gg-13 is found invalid,~~  
4 ~~for)) For a health plan offered as a qualifying health plan for a  
5 health savings account, the carrier may apply cost sharing to  
6 coverage of the services ~~((that have been invalidated))~~ required to  
7 be covered under subsections (1) and (2) of this section only at the  
8 minimum level necessary to preserve the enrollee's ability to claim  
9 tax exempt contributions and withdrawals from the enrollee's health  
10 savings account under internal revenue service laws and regulations.~~

11 ~~((7))~~ (5) A carrier may use reasonable medical management  
12 techniques to determine the frequency, method, treatment, or setting  
13 for an item or service described in subsections (1) and (2) of this  
14 section to the extent not specified in the relevant recommendation or  
15 guideline, federal rules and guidance related to the coverage of  
16 preventive services in effect on ~~((January 8, 2024,))~~ June 30, 2025,  
17 department of health guidance issued under section 2 of this act, and  
18 any rules adopted by the insurance commissioner.

19 ~~((8) The insurance commissioner shall enforce this section~~  
20 ~~consistent with federal rules and guidance in effect on January 8,~~  
21 ~~2024.~~

22 ~~(9))~~ (6) The insurance commissioner may adopt rules necessary to  
23 implement the requirements of this section, ~~((consistent with federal~~  
24 ~~statutes, rules, and guidance in effect on January 8, 2024. The~~  
25 ~~insurance commissioner may also adopt rules related to any future~~  
26 ~~preventive services recommendations and guidelines issued by the~~  
27 ~~United States preventive services task force, the advisory committee~~  
28 ~~on immunization practices of the centers for disease control and~~  
29 ~~prevention, and the health resources and services administration or~~  
30 ~~related federal rules or guidance))~~ including rules modifying  
31 coverage requirements for preventive services under subsection (1)(a)  
32 through (c) of this section based on the addition of preventive  
33 services or other changes to the recommendations and guidelines  
34 referenced in subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section that are  
35 made after June 30, 2025. Any rules adopted by the insurance  
36 commissioner must be as or more favorable to enrollees with respect  
37 to coverage of preventive services than the recommendations and  
38 guidelines in effect on June 30, 2025. In adopting any rules under  
39 this subsection, the insurance commissioner must:

1 (a) Consult with the health care authority and department of  
2 health; and

3 (b) Consider the recommendations of the department of health  
4 issued under section 2 of this act and recommendations issued by the  
5 United States preventive services task force, the health resources  
6 and services administration, and experts and expert organizations  
7 that the commissioner in their discretion deems relevant and based on  
8 reasonable scientific evidence and judgment.

9 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.290.010 and 2024 c 41 s 1 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
12 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

13 (1) "Association" means the Washington vaccine association.

14 (2) "Covered lives" means all persons under the age of nineteen  
15 in Washington state who are:

16 (a) Covered under an individual or group health benefit plan  
17 issued or delivered in Washington state or an individual or group  
18 health benefit plan that otherwise provides benefits to Washington  
19 residents; or

20 (b) Enrolled in a group health benefit plan administered by a  
21 third-party administrator. Persons under the age of nineteen for whom  
22 federal funding is used to purchase vaccines or who are enrolled in  
23 state purchased health care programs covering low-income children  
24 including, but not limited to, apple health for kids under RCW  
25 74.09.470 and the basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW are not  
26 considered "covered lives" under this chapter.

27 (3) "Estimated vaccine cost" means the estimated cost to the  
28 state over the course of a state fiscal year for the purchase and  
29 distribution of vaccines purchased (~~(at the federal discount rate)~~)  
30 by the department of health.

31 (4) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
32 48.43.005 and also includes health benefit plans administered by a  
33 third-party administrator.

34 (5) "Health carrier" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
35 48.43.005.

36 (6) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health.

37 (7) "State supplied vaccine" means vaccine purchased by the state  
38 department of health for covered lives for whom the state is

1 purchasing vaccine using state funds raised via assessments on health  
2 carriers and third-party administrators as provided in this chapter.

3 (8) "Third-party administrator" means any person or entity who,  
4 on behalf of a health insurer or health care purchaser, receives or  
5 collects charges, contributions, or premiums for, or adjusts or  
6 settles claims on or for, residents of Washington state or Washington  
7 health care providers and facilities.

8 (9) "Total nonfederal program cost" means the estimated vaccine  
9 cost less the amount of federal revenue available to the state for  
10 the purchase and distribution of vaccines.

11 (10) "Vaccine" means an immunization recommended by the  
12 department of health under section 2 of this act for administration  
13 to persons under the age of 19 years and approved by the federal food  
14 and drug administration as safe and effective (~~(and recommended by~~  
15 ~~the advisory committee on immunization practices of the centers for~~  
16 ~~disease control and prevention for administration to children under~~  
17 ~~the age of nineteen years)) in any manner.~~

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.290.040 and 2010 c 174 s 4 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The secretary shall estimate the total nonfederal program  
21 cost for the upcoming calendar year by October 1, 2010, and October  
22 1st of each year thereafter, prioritizing purchasing at the federal  
23 discount rate or, if not available, at the most cost-effective rate.  
24 Additionally, the secretary shall subtract any amounts needed to  
25 serve children enrolled in state purchased health care programs  
26 covering low-income children for whom federal vaccine funding is not  
27 available, and report the final amount to the association. In  
28 addition, the secretary shall perform such calculation for the period  
29 of May 1st through December 31st, 2010, as soon as feasible but in no  
30 event later than April 1, 2010. The estimates shall be timely  
31 communicated to the association.

32 (2) The board of directors of the association shall determine the  
33 method and timing of assessment collection in consultation with the  
34 department of health. The board shall use a formula designed by the  
35 board to ensure the total anticipated nonfederal program cost, minus  
36 costs for other children served through state purchased health care  
37 programs covering low-income children, calculated under subsection  
38 (1) of this section, is collected and transmitted to the universal  
39 vaccine purchase account created in RCW 43.70.720 in order to ensure

1 adequacy of state funds to order state-supplied vaccine (~~from~~  
2 ~~federal centers for disease control and prevention~~)).

3 (3) Each licensed health carrier and each third-party  
4 administrator on behalf of its clients' health benefit plans must be  
5 assessed and is required to timely remit payment for its share of the  
6 total amount needed to fund nonfederal program costs calculated by  
7 the department of health. Such an assessment includes additional  
8 funds as determined necessary by the board to cover the reasonable  
9 costs for the association's administration. The board shall determine  
10 the assessment methodology, with the intent of ensuring that the  
11 nonfederal costs are based on actual usage of vaccine for a health  
12 carrier or third-party administrator's covered lives. State and local  
13 governments and school districts must pay their portion of vaccine  
14 expense for covered lives under this chapter.

15 (4) The board of the association shall develop a mechanism  
16 through which the number and cost of doses of vaccine purchased under  
17 this chapter that have been administered to children covered by each  
18 health carrier, and each third-party administrator's clients health  
19 benefit plans, are attributed to each such health carrier and third-  
20 party administrator. Except as otherwise permitted by the board, this  
21 mechanism must include at least the following: Date of service;  
22 patient name; vaccine received; and health benefit plan eligibility.  
23 The data must be collected and maintained in a manner consistent with  
24 applicable state and federal health information privacy laws.  
25 Beginning November 1, 2011, and each November 1st thereafter, the  
26 board shall factor the results of this mechanism for the previous  
27 year into the determination of the appropriate assessment amount for  
28 each health carrier and third-party administrator for the upcoming  
29 year.

30 (5) For any year in which the total calculated cost to be  
31 received from association members through assessments is less than  
32 the total nonfederal program cost, the association must pay the  
33 difference to the state for deposit into the universal vaccine  
34 purchase account established in RCW 43.70.720. The board may assess,  
35 and the health carrier and third-party administrators are obligated  
36 to pay, their proportionate share of such costs and appropriate  
37 reserves as determined by the board.

38 (6) The aggregate amount to be raised by the association in any  
39 year may be reduced by any surpluses remaining from prior years.

1 (7) In order to generate sufficient start-up funding, the  
2 association may accept prepayment from member health carriers and  
3 third-party administrators, subject to offset of future amounts  
4 otherwise owing or other repayment method as determined by the board.  
5 The initial deposit of start-up funding must be deposited into the  
6 universal vaccine purchase account on or before April 30, 2010.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 44.28  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall  
10 conduct a postenactment review of the implementation of this act by  
11 November 15, 2032, to determine whether the act has preserved access  
12 to vaccines and preventive services and whether vaccine purchases  
13 have been made in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the intent  
14 of the act as of the effective date. To inform the joint legislative  
15 audit and review committee's review, the department of health and the  
16 office of the insurance commissioner shall submit available data  
17 related to the purpose of the postenactment review to the joint  
18 legislative audit and review committee by September 30, 2031.

19 (2) This section expires January 1, 2033.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If any provision of this act or its  
21 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
22 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
23 persons or circumstances is not affected.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
26 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
27 effect immediately.

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