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**SENATE BILL 5947**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hasegawa, Bateman, Chapman, Orwall, Riccelli, and Saldaña

Prefiled 12/29/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the Washington health care board;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; and providing a contingent  
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The Washington health care board is established. The health  
8 care board shall design and implement the Washington health plan to  
9 provide for all medically necessary health care services for all  
10 residents of the state. The plan may not be implemented until the  
11 state obtains a federal waiver for a state-based universal health  
12 care plan and receives federal funding to support the implementation  
13 of the plan and any necessary implementing legislation has been  
14 adopted by the legislature.

15 (2) The health care board shall consist of 19 members appointed  
16 by the governor as follows:

17 (a) Five members representing employers;

18 (b) Six members who are practicing health care providers in the  
19 state as follows:

20 (i) Two physicians, at least one of whom must be a primary care  
21 physician;

1 (ii) One registered nurse;  
2 (iii) One mental health provider;  
3 (iv) One dentist; and  
4 (v) One naturopath;  
5 (c) One health care facility director;  
6 (d) One member with expertise in health care financing;  
7 (e) One member with expertise in prescription drug purchasing and  
8 economics;  
9 (f) One tribal representative;  
10 (g) One member representing organized labor; and  
11 (h) Three members representing health-related state agencies.  
12 (3) Members of the health care board shall serve four-year terms  
13 and shall select a board chair from among the members.  
14 (4) The health care board shall:  
15 (a) Design the Washington health care plan and conduct or  
16 contract for any necessary actuarial and economic analyses needed to  
17 support the development of a plan;  
18 (b) Hire any necessary staff;  
19 (c) Set a detailed timeline for plan implementation and submit  
20 any necessary waivers to obtain federal approval and funding;  
21 (d) Upon federal approval of a waiver or, if required by federal  
22 law or regulation, prior to submission of a waiver application, make  
23 recommendations to the legislature to implement the plan, including  
24 necessary statutory changes to establish requirements for benefits  
25 under the plan, eligibility for the plan, provider participation and  
26 payments, and financing for the plan;  
27 (e) Once the plan is implemented, administer all aspects of the  
28 plan; and  
29 (f) Conduct activities the health care board considers necessary  
30 to carry out the purposes of this act.  
31 (5) The authority may adopt any rules necessary to implement this  
32 section.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) This act takes effect upon the  
34 enactment of federal law that authorizes a state to obtain a waiver  
35 to establish a state-based universal health care plan and to receive  
36 federal funding for that plan.

37 (2) The health care authority shall provide written notice of the  
38 effective date of this act to affected parties, the chief clerk of  
39 the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office

1 of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the  
2 authority.

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