
SENATE BILL 6292

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Cleveland, Muzzall, Hasegawa, and Nobles

Read first time 01/22/26. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a joint legislative executive
2 committee on health care financing; creating new sections; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) The health care system in Washington state is at a turning
7 point. Federal actions have undermined the foundation of our health
8 care system, and now more than ever it must function with fewer
9 resources while serving more patients.

10 (2) A convening of state experts is needed to develop
11 recommendations and strategies to stabilize the health care system,
12 including ensuring access to care and making health care premiums,
13 health care services, and medications more affordable for the
14 residents of Washington state.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint legislative executive
16 committee on health care financing is established, composed of the
17 following members:

18 (a) Two members from the house of representatives, representing
19 each of the two largest caucuses;

1 (b) Two members from the senate, representing each of the two
2 largest caucuses;

3 (c) A member from the office of the governor, appointed by the
4 governor;

5 (d) The director of the health care authority or their designee;

6 (e) The secretary of the department of social and health
7 services or their designee;

8 (f) The secretary of health or their designee;

9 (g) The director of the office of financial management or their
10 designee;

11 (h) The chief executive officer of the health benefit exchange or
12 their designee;

13 (i) The insurance commissioner or their designee; and

14 (j) A representative from the tribal governments, knowledgeable
15 in Indian health care delivery in the state.

16 (2) The committee shall hold its first meeting by August 1, 2026,
17 and the committee members shall elect a chair from among its members
18 at the committee's first meeting.

19 (3) The office of financial management shall staff the committee.

20 (4) The committee's meetings shall be open to the public pursuant
21 to chapter 42.30 RCW. The office of financial management shall
22 publish on its website the dates and locations of committee meetings,
23 agendas of prior and upcoming meetings, and meeting materials for
24 prior and upcoming meetings. Meetings may be held in person,
25 virtually, or in a hybrid format.

26 (5) The committee shall investigate strategies and develop policy
27 options to create financing mechanisms to better support statewide
28 health care access and health care coverage. This may include, but is
29 not limited to, recommendations related to:

30 (a) Health care and prescription drug purchasing strategies,
31 including consideration of existing care models that have
32 demonstrated improved outcomes and cost savings;

33 (b) Health care provider reimbursement structures and alternative
34 payment models, including consideration of existing care models that
35 have demonstrated improved outcomes and cost savings;

36 (c) Health plan benefit design and cost sharing;

37 (d) Administrative simplification for state health care
38 regulations or within state-regulated health programs;

39 (e) Accessing and leveraging federal funds;

- 1 (f) Identifying at least two specific components of the broader
2 health system that would benefit from direct state action; and
3 (g) Other topics as identified by the committee.
- 4 (6) When considering strategies and developing policy options,
5 the committee shall consult experts in health care financing that
6 have relevant experience with the policy being considered including,
7 but not limited to, health care administrators, provider
8 organizations, health carriers, and health care economists.
- 9 (7) The office of financial management may contract with a vendor
10 to conduct an economic and actuarial analysis of recommendations or
11 other data analysis as necessary, and to facilitate the development
12 of the recommendations.
- 13 (8) The committee members may be reimbursed for travel expenses
14 as authorized under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, and chapter 44.04
15 RCW as appropriate.
- 16 (9) The committee shall deliver a preliminary report to the
17 governor and legislature by January 1, 2027, and a final report by
18 November 1, 2027.
- 19 (10) This section expires on January 1, 2028.

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