
HOUSE BILL 1480

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representative Alexander

Read first time 01/24/11. Referred to Committee on Health & Human Services Appropriations & Oversight.

1 AN ACT Relating to children's affordable health care coverage
2 eligibility; amending RCW 74.09.470; providing an effective date; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.09.470 and 2009 c 463 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1)(a) Consistent with the goals established in RCW 74.09.402 and
8 subject to (c) of this subsection, through the apple health for kids
9 program authorized in this section, the department shall provide
10 affordable health care coverage to children under the age of nineteen
11 who reside in Washington state and whose family income at the time of
12 enrollment is not greater than two hundred fifty percent of the federal
13 poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by
14 the federal department of health and human services, and effective
15 January 1, 2009, and only to the extent that funds are specifically
16 appropriated therefor, to children whose family income is not greater
17 than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

18 (b) In administering the program, the department shall take such
19 actions as may be necessary to ensure the receipt of federal financial

1 participation under the medical assistance program, as codified at
2 Title XIX of the federal social security act, the state children's
3 health insurance program, as codified at Title XXI of the federal
4 social security act, and any other federal funding sources that are now
5 available or may become available in the future.

6 (c) Effective for dates of service on or after March 1, 2011,
7 coverage under this section is limited to children who establish
8 eligibility under Title XIX or Title XXI programs of the federal social
9 security act.

10 (d) The department and the caseload forecast council shall estimate
11 the anticipated caseload and costs of the program established in this
12 section.

13 (2) The department shall accept applications for enrollment for
14 children's health care coverage; establish appropriate minimum-
15 enrollment periods, as may be necessary; and determine eligibility
16 based on current family income. The department shall make eligibility
17 determinations within the time frames for establishing eligibility for
18 children on medical assistance, as defined by RCW 74.09.510. The
19 application and annual renewal processes shall be designed to minimize
20 administrative barriers for applicants and enrolled clients, and to
21 minimize gaps in eligibility for families who are eligible for
22 coverage. If a change in family income results in a change in the
23 source of funding for coverage, the department shall transfer the
24 family members to the appropriate source of funding and notify the
25 family with respect to any change in premium obligation, without a
26 break in eligibility. The department shall use the same eligibility
27 redetermination and appeals procedures as those provided for children
28 on medical assistance programs. The department shall modify its
29 eligibility renewal procedures to lower the percentage of children
30 failing to annually renew. The department shall manage its outreach,
31 application, and renewal procedures with the goals of: (a) Achieving
32 year by year improvements in enrollment, enrollment rates, renewals,
33 and renewal rates; (b) maximizing the use of existing program databases
34 to obtain information related to earned and unearned income for
35 purposes of eligibility determination and renewals, including, but not
36 limited to, the basic food program, the child care subsidy program,
37 federal social security administration programs, and the employment
38 security department wage database; (c) streamlining renewal processes

1 to rely primarily upon data matches, online submissions, and telephone
2 interviews; and (d) implementing any other eligibility determination
3 and renewal processes to allow the state to receive an enhanced federal
4 matching rate and additional federal outreach funding available through
5 the federal children's health insurance program reauthorization act of
6 2009 by January 2010. The department shall advise the governor and the
7 legislature regarding the status of these efforts by September 30,
8 2009. The information provided should include the status of the
9 department's efforts, the anticipated impact of those efforts on
10 enrollment, and the costs associated with that enrollment.

11 (3) To ensure continuity of care and ease of understanding for
12 families and health care providers, and to maximize the efficiency of
13 the program, the amount, scope, and duration of health care services
14 provided to children under this section shall be the same as that
15 provided to children under medical assistance, as defined in RCW
16 74.09.520.

17 (4) The primary mechanism for purchasing health care coverage under
18 this section shall be through contracts with managed health care
19 systems as defined in RCW 74.09.522, subject to conditions,
20 limitations, and appropriations provided in the biennial appropriations
21 act. However, the department shall make every effort within available
22 resources to purchase health care coverage for uninsured children whose
23 families have access to dependent coverage through an employer-
24 sponsored health plan or another source when it is cost-effective for
25 the state to do so, and the purchase is consistent with requirements of
26 Title XIX and Title XXI of the federal social security act. To the
27 extent allowable under federal law, the department shall require
28 families to enroll in available employer-sponsored coverage, as a
29 condition of participating in the program established under this
30 section, when it is cost-effective for the state to do so. Families
31 who enroll in available employer-sponsored coverage under this section
32 shall be accounted for separately in the annual report required by RCW
33 74.09.053.

34 (5)(a) To reflect appropriate parental responsibility, the
35 department shall develop and implement a schedule of premiums for
36 children's health care coverage due to the department from families
37 with income greater than two hundred percent of the federal poverty
38 level. For families with income greater than two hundred fifty percent

1 of the federal poverty level, the premiums shall be established in
2 consultation with the senate majority and minority leaders and the
3 speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives. Premiums
4 shall be set at a reasonable level that does not pose a barrier to
5 enrollment. The amount of the premium shall be based upon family
6 income and shall not exceed the premium limitations in Title XXI of the
7 federal social security act. Premiums shall not be imposed on children
8 in households at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty
9 level as articulated in RCW 74.09.055.

10 (b) Beginning no later than January 1, 2010, the department shall
11 offer families whose income is greater than three hundred percent of
12 the federal poverty level the opportunity to purchase health care
13 coverage for their children through the programs administered under
14 this section without an explicit premium subsidy from the state. The
15 design of the health benefit package offered to these children should
16 provide a benefit package substantially similar to that offered in the
17 apple health for kids program, and may differ with respect to cost-
18 sharing, and other appropriate elements from that provided to children
19 under subsection (3) of this section including, but not limited to,
20 application of preexisting conditions, waiting periods, and other
21 design changes needed to offer affordable coverage. The amount paid by
22 the family shall be in an amount equal to the rate paid by the state to
23 the managed health care system for coverage of the child, including any
24 associated and administrative costs to the state of providing coverage
25 for the child. Any pooling of the program enrollees that results in
26 state fiscal impact must be identified and brought to the legislature
27 for consideration.

28 (6) The department shall undertake and continue a proactive,
29 targeted outreach and education effort with the goal of enrolling
30 children in health coverage and improving the health literacy of youth
31 and parents. The department shall collaborate with the department of
32 health, local public health jurisdictions, the office of the
33 superintendent of public instruction, the department of early learning,
34 health educators, health care providers, health carriers, community-
35 based organizations, and parents in the design and development of this
36 effort. The outreach and education effort shall include the following
37 components:

1 (a) Broad dissemination of information about the availability of
2 coverage, including media campaigns;

3 (b) Assistance with completing applications, and community-based
4 outreach efforts to help people apply for coverage. Community-based
5 outreach efforts should be targeted to the populations least likely to
6 be covered;

7 (c) Use of existing systems, such as enrollment information from
8 the free and reduced-price lunch program, the department of early
9 learning child care subsidy program, the department of health's women,
10 infants, and children program, and the early childhood education and
11 assistance program, to identify children who may be eligible but not
12 enrolled in coverage;

13 (d) Contracting with community-based organizations and government
14 entities to support community-based outreach efforts to help families
15 apply for coverage. These efforts should be targeted to the
16 populations least likely to be covered. The department shall provide
17 informational materials for use by government entities and community-
18 based organizations in their outreach activities, and should identify
19 any available federal matching funds to support these efforts;

20 (e) Development and dissemination of materials to engage and inform
21 parents and families statewide on issues such as: The benefits of
22 health insurance coverage; the appropriate use of health services,
23 including primary care provided by health care practitioners licensed
24 under chapters 18.71, 18.57, 18.36A, and 18.79 RCW, and emergency
25 services; the value of a medical home, well-child services and
26 immunization, and other preventive health services with linkages to
27 department of health child profile efforts; identifying and managing
28 chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes; and the value of good
29 nutrition and physical activity;

30 (f) An evaluation of the outreach and education efforts, based upon
31 clear, cost-effective outcome measures that are included in contracts
32 with entities that undertake components of the outreach and education
33 effort;

34 (g) An implementation plan to develop online application capability
35 that is integrated with the department's automated client eligibility
36 system, and to develop data linkages with the office of the
37 superintendent of public instruction for free and reduced-price lunch

1 enrollment information and the department of early learning for child
2 care subsidy program enrollment information.

3 (7) The department shall take action to increase the number of
4 primary care physicians providing dental disease preventive services
5 including oral health screenings, risk assessment, family education,
6 the application of fluoride varnish, and referral to a dentist as
7 needed.

8 (8) The department shall monitor the rates of substitution between
9 private-sector health care coverage and the coverage provided under
10 this section and shall report to appropriate committees of the
11 legislature by December 2010.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
14 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
15 March 1, 2011.

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