
HOUSE BILL 1941

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representative Couture

Prefiled 12/13/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for health home services for
2 medicaid-eligible children with medically complex conditions; adding
3 a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

6 (a) Children with medical complexity deserve coordinated and
7 effective care delivered in a high quality setting. Families should
8 be able to focus solely on their child's needs and not waste precious
9 time fighting a fragmented care system or the complexities of
10 medicaid;

11 (b) In 2019, the federal government adopted the advancing care
12 for exceptional kids act to address these concerns. This law created
13 a new health home model that will coordinate prompt care for children
14 with medically complex conditions, develop an individualized,
15 comprehensive, pediatric, family-centered care plan, coordinate
16 access to subspecialized care, and coordinate appropriate care with
17 out-of-state providers; and

18 (c) The federal law provides health homes with a higher federal
19 matching rate, making this proposal beneficial to Washington's
20 children with medical complexities while also being financially
21 prudent.

1 (2) The legislature, therefore, intends to actively support these
2 medically complex children by taking the steps necessary to implement
3 health homes in Washington.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) By October 1, 2024, the authority shall submit a state plan
7 amendment to the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services
8 to allow medicaid-eligible children with medically complex conditions
9 to voluntarily enroll in a health home as provided in section 3 of
10 the medicaid services investment and accountability act of 2019 (P.L.
11 116-16).

12 (2) By December 1, 2024, the authority shall submit a status
13 report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the
14 legislature with respect to the approval of the state plan amendment
15 identified in subsection (1) of this section. The status report must
16 include:

17 (a) A summary of the authority's state plan amendment proposal,
18 including the proposed payment methodology and the expected timeline
19 for approval;

20 (b) Financial modeling information for the implementation of the
21 state plan amendment, including estimates of state costs, expected
22 federal matching funds, and anticipated state planning grants from
23 the federal government; and

24 (c) Information regarding expected utilization for the program
25 and whether anticipated availability of health home providers meeting
26 federal minimum requirements will be sufficient to meet the needs of
27 patients statewide.

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