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HOUSE BILL 1968

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Jenkins, Schmick, Tharinger, Harris, Bergquist,  
Vick, Pettigrew, and Holy

1 AN ACT Relating to limiting nursing home direct care payment  
2 adjustments to the lowest case mix weights in the reduced physical  
3 function groups and authorizing upward adjustments to case mix  
4 weights in the cognitive and behavior groups; and amending RCW  
5 74.46.485.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.46.485 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 7 s 4 are each  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (1) The legislature recognizes that staff and resources needed to  
10 adequately care for individuals with cognitive or behavioral  
11 impairments is not limited to support for activities of daily living.  
12 Therefore, the department shall:

13 (a) Employ the resource utilization group (~~(III)~~) IV case mix  
14 classification methodology. The department shall use the (~~forty-~~  
15 ~~four~~) fifty-seven group index maximizing model for the resource  
16 utilization group (~~(III)~~) IV grouper version (~~(5-10)~~) MDS 3.05, but  
17 the department may revise or update the classification methodology to  
18 reflect advances or refinements in resident assessment or  
19 classification, subject to federal requirements. The department may  
20 adjust by no more than thirteen percent the case mix index for (~~any~~  
21 ~~of the lowest ten~~) resource utilization group categories beginning

1 with PA1 through ((PE2)) PB2 to any case mix index that aids in  
2 achieving the purpose and intent of RCW 74.39A.007 and cost-efficient  
3 care, excluding behaviors, and allowing for exceptions for limited  
4 placement options; and

5 (b) Implement minimum data set 3.0 under the authority of this  
6 section ((and RCW 74.46.431(3))). The department must notify nursing  
7 home contractors twenty-eight days in advance the date of  
8 implementation of the minimum data set 3.0. In the notification, the  
9 department must identify for all semiannual rate settings following  
10 the date of minimum data set 3.0 implementation a previously  
11 established semiannual case mix adjustment established for the  
12 semiannual rate settings that will be used for semiannual case mix  
13 calculations in direct care until minimum data set 3.0 is fully  
14 implemented.

15 (2) The department is authorized to adjust upward the weights for  
16 resource utilization groups BA1-BB2 related to cognitive or  
17 behavioral health to ensure adequate access to appropriate levels of  
18 care.

19 (3) A default case mix group shall be established for cases in  
20 which the resident dies or is discharged for any purpose prior to  
21 completion of the resident's initial assessment. The default case mix  
22 group and case mix weight for these cases shall be designated by the  
23 department.

24 ((+3)) (4) A default case mix group may also be established for  
25 cases in which there is an untimely assessment for the resident. The  
26 default case mix group and case mix weight for these cases shall be  
27 designated by the department.

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