
HOUSE BILL 1697

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Macri, Lekanoff, Thai, Jinkins, Dolan, Robinson, Pettigrew, Peterson, Stonier, Valdez, Ortiz-Self, Wylie, Doglio, Riccelli, and Santos

1 AN ACT Relating to health coverage for young adults; adding a new
2 section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

5 (a) Individuals with health insurance coverage have better health
6 outcomes than those who lack coverage. Uninsured individuals are more
7 likely to be in poor health and more likely to delay seeking or go
8 without needed health care services, which ultimately drives up the
9 cost of care;

10 (b) In recognition of the value of a healthy next generation,
11 Washington has extended apple health coverage to all children
12 residing in the state, regardless of where they were born. Federal
13 law, however, unjustly excludes undocumented immigrants from
14 receiving health coverage through apple health, so young adults
15 without status age out of eligibility for apple health on their
16 nineteenth birthday;

17 (c) Washington is home to more than one million immigrants who go
18 to school, work, pay taxes, and contribute to our state's vibrant
19 economy. This includes more than seventeen thousand recipients of the
20 deferred action for childhood arrival program, young people who came
21 to this country as children and have made their homes here;

1 (d) Under the affordable care act, young adults are eligible to
2 remain on their parents' health plans until their twenty-sixth
3 birthday. Similarly, young adult alumni of the foster care program
4 are eligible for apple health coverage until they reach the age of
5 twenty-six.

6 (2) As a matter of equity, the legislature therefore intends to
7 improve the health of all young people in this state by extending
8 eligibility for apple health to all low-income young adults,
9 regardless of immigration status.

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

12 (1) The authority shall provide health coverage to individuals
13 who:

14 (a) Are at least nineteen years old and no older than twenty-six
15 years old;

16 (b) Have a countable income that is at or below one hundred
17 thirty-three percent of the federal poverty level, adjusted for
18 family size and determined annually by the federal department of
19 health and human services;

20 (c) Are not incarcerated; and

21 (d) Are not eligible for categorically needy medical assistance
22 as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan.

23 (2) The amount, scope, and duration of health care services
24 provided to individuals under this section must be the same as that
25 provided to individuals eligible for categorically needy medical
26 assistance. The authority shall assure a seamless transition in
27 coverage for individuals aging out of children's health coverage and
28 use the same eligibility redetermination and appeals procedures as
29 those provided for children's health coverage. The authority shall
30 manage its application and renewal procedures so as to maximize
31 enrollment of eligible individuals.

32 (3) The authority shall seek federal funding, as available, to
33 defray state costs associated with providing coverage to persons
34 under this section.

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