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**SENATE BILL 5936**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Conway

Prefiled 01/02/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to convening a work group to design a palliative  
2 care benefit for fully insured health plans; creating a new section;  
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The office of the insurance  
6 commissioner, in consultation with the health care authority, shall  
7 convene a work group to design the parameters of a palliative care  
8 benefit and payment model for the benefit of fully insured health  
9 plans, as defined in RCW 48.43.005. The work group must coordinate  
10 its work with the ongoing work at the health care authority related  
11 to designing a palliative care benefit for the state medicaid program  
12 and the employee and retiree benefits program.

13 (2) The work group shall consider the following elements of a  
14 palliative care benefit:

15 (a) Clinical eligibility criteria;

16 (b) The services included in a palliative care benefit;

17 (c) Appropriate staffing, including staffing models and provider  
18 training;

19 (d) Evaluation criteria and reporting requirements; and

20 (e) Payment models.

1 (3) The commissioner may contract with a vendor to conduct  
2 actuarial analysis if necessary.

3 (4) The work group shall consist of the following members:

4 (a) One representative from the office of the insurance  
5 commissioner to be appointed by the commissioner;

6 (b) One representative from the health care authority to be  
7 selected by the director of the health care authority;

8 (c) One representative from the department of social and health  
9 services to be appointed by the secretary of the department;

10 (d) One representative from the department of health in-home  
11 services program to be appointed by the secretary of health;

12 (e) One representative from the Washington health benefit  
13 exchange to be appointed by the chief executive officer of the  
14 exchange;

15 (f) One representative from the Washington state hospice and  
16 palliative care organization;

17 (g) Four representatives currently providing palliative care,  
18 either as clinicians or operational leaders for a hospice or  
19 palliative care program, including at least one physician, to be  
20 selected by the Washington state hospice and palliative care  
21 organization;

22 (h) One representative from the association of Washington health  
23 care plans;

24 (i) One representative from a commercial health carrier and one  
25 representative from a medicaid managed care organization to be  
26 selected by the association of Washington health care plans;

27 (j) One representative from the Washington state hospital  
28 association;

29 (k) One representative from the home care association of  
30 Washington; and

31 (l) One representative from the Washington health alliance.

32 (5) The work group shall convene its first meeting by July 30,  
33 2024, and shall submit a report to the legislature detailing its work  
34 and any recommendations, including any legislation, by November 1,  
35 2025.

36 (6) For the purposes of this section, "palliative care" means  
37 expert assessment and management of a patient's symptoms, including  
38 coordination of care, attending to the physical, functional,  
39 psychological, practical, and spiritual consequences of serious  
40 illness, and assessment and support of caregiver needs. Palliative

1 care is a person- and family-centered approach to care, providing  
2 people living with serious illness relief from the symptoms and  
3 stress of an illness, and can be delivered alongside life-prolonging  
4 or curative care.

5 (7) This section expires June 1, 2026.

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