

signs within incorporated cities and towns but also within "commercial and industrial areas" which is a term very broadly defined in the 1971 Act. Veto Message

Even after May, 1974, the statute as it presently reads allows for two on-premise signs for each business establishment, one facing in each direction alongside an interstate or primary highway. This ensures that these businesses will retain their essential visual identification. For these reasons, I have determined to veto sections 1, 2, and 3 of the bill. With these exceptions, the remainder of House Bill No. 916 is approved."

CHAPTER 139
[House Bill No. 1144]
INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE—
NEWBORN INFANT CARE

AN ACT Relating to health care; adding a new section to chapter 48.20 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.21 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.44 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 48.20 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any disability insurance contract providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this 1974 act, which provides coverage for dependent children of the insured, shall provide coverage for newborn infants of the insured from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided in accord with this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such infant children

V from the moment of birth, but need not include benefits for routine well-baby care.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 48.21 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any group disability insurance contract except blanket disability insurance contract, providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services, renewed, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this 1974 act, which provides coverage for the dependent children of persons in the insured group, shall provide coverage for newborn infant children of persons in the insured group from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided in accord with this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such infant children from the moment of

V birth, but need not include benefits for routine well-baby care.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 48.44 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Any health care service plan contract under this chapter delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this 1974 act, which provides coverage for dependent children of the insured or covered group member, shall provide coverage for newborn infants of the insured or covered group member from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided in accord with this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such infant children from the moment of birth, but need not include benefits for routine well-baby care.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. There is added to chapter 48.52 RCW a new section to read as as follows:

Any self insurer providing coverage or health care benefits or services for dependent children shall include coverage or health care service benefits or services for congenital anomalies of newborn children from the moment of birth.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This 1974 act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 8, 1974.

Passed the Senate February 6, 1974.

Approved by the Governor February 16, 1974, with the exception of certain items which are vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State February 26, 1974.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith without my approval as to certain items House Bill No. 1144 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to health care."

Veto
Message

This bill provides for coverage to newborn infants in various forms of health care service insurance coverage to close a gap that has long existed by the exclusion from coverage of newborn infants until a certain number of days after birth. As a result of this exclusion, many families have been hard hit by major medical expenses that could not have been anticipated.

Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the bill each contains an item that would exclude from the coverage provided to newborn infants "benefits for routine well-baby care." Nowhere in the bill is there a definition of what constitutes routine well-baby care, and without such definition exclusions could be written into future coverage that could well defeat the purpose of this bill.

Moreover, experts in pediatric care have long maintained that there is no such thing as a "well-baby" during the first 48 hours of an infant's life. During those critical first 48 hours, a newborn infant is highly susceptible to a number of potentially serious physical malfunctions, and the high degree of care necessary to carry a newborn infant through this period could be discouraged by a broadly written well-baby care exclusion in health care insurance contracts.

For these reasons, I have determined to veto the referenced items in section 1, 2, and 3 of the

bill. With the exception of those items, the remainder of House Bill No. 1144 is approved." ^{veto} Message

CHAPTER 140
[House Bill No. 1169]
WASHINGTON COMMISSION ON ASIAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

AN ACT Relating to state government; establishing the Washington Commission on Asian-American Affairs; creating a new chapter in Title 43 RCW; declaring an emergency; and providing an expiration date.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The legislature declares that the public policy of this state is to insure equal opportunity for all of its citizens. The legislature finds that Asian-Americans have unique and special problems. It is the purpose of this chapter to improve the well-being of Asian-Americans by insuring their participation in the fields of government, business, and education. The legislature further finds that it is necessary to aid Asian-Americans in obtaining governmental services in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all the residents of this state. Therefore the legislature deems it necessary to create a commission to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. As used in this chapter unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "Asian-Americans" include persons primarily of Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, or Korean ancestry; "Asian-Americans" also include persons of Samoan, Guamanian, Thai, Viet-Namese, other Far East or South East Asian and Pacific Island ancestry.

(2) "Commission" means the Washington state commission on Asian-American affairs in the office of the governor.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is established a Washington state commission on Asian-American affairs in the office of the governor. The now existing Asian-American advisory council shall become the commission upon enactment of this 1974 act. The council may transfer all office equipment, including files and records to the commission.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. (1) The commission shall consist of twenty-four members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

Two of the members to be appointed shall be members of the House of Representatives to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two of the members shall be members of the Senate of the state of Washington to be selected by the president of the Senate. The legislative members selected by