THIRTY FIRST DAY

THIRTY FIRST DAY

The House was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Speaker (Representative Morris presiding). The Clerk called the roll and a quorum was present.

The flag was escorted to the rostrum by a Sergeant at Arms Color Guard, Pages Chelsea Woods and Perry Piper. The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) led the Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer was offered by Other Chaplain Richard Lopez, Olympia Fire Department.

Reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed with and it was ordered to stand approved.

RESOLUTION

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2006-4676, By Representatives Quall, Talcott, P. Sullivan, Anderson and Hunter

WHEREAS, The State of Washington recognizes home education as a valuable educational alternative; and
WHEREAS, The importance of parental involvement in children's education and character development is critical; and
WHEREAS, Homeschools offer families the opportunity for their children to receive an education that couples high standards with a sound environment based on individual family desires; and
WHEREAS, More than sixteen thousand Washington children are currently being home educated; and
WHEREAS, Studies confirm that children who are educated at home score exceptionally well on nationally normed achievement tests and are well-prepared to meet the challenges of today's society; and
WHEREAS, Home education was one of the only means of education for much of America's early history; and
WHEREAS, Many notable Americans, including George and Martha Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Abigail Adams, John Quincy Adams, Chief Seattle, Thomas Edison, Sacajawea, Helen Keller, Douglas MacArthur, Geronimo, Pearl S. Buck, Franklin Roosevelt, Patrick Henry, John Marshall, Abraham Lincoln, and Woodrow Wilson were primarily educated at home; and
WHEREAS, Washington state recognizes home educators for their continued commitment to the diversity and quality of education in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of Washington hereby honor, thank, and celebrate the home-educating families in Washington state.

Representative Quall moved the adoption of the resolution.

Representatives Quall and Talcott spoke in favor of the adoption of the resolution.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4676 was adopted.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the sixth order of business.

SECOND READING SUSPENSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1361, by Representatives Alexander, Simpson, Schindler and Holmquist

Modifying the disbursement of funds by air pollution control agencies.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Alexander and Simpson spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 1361.

MOTIONS

On motion of Representative Santos, Representatives Morrell and Pettigrew were excused. On motion of Representative Clements, Representative Campbell was excused.

ROLL CALL
The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 1361, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 95, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 3.


Excused: Representatives Campbell, Morrell and Pettigrew - 3.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1361, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 1430, by House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Wood and Condotta)

Authorizing the sale by spirit, beer, and wine licensees of malt liquor in containers that are capable of holding four gallons or more and are registered in accordance with RCW 66.28.200.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted and SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 1430 was read the second time.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representative Woods spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Second Substitute House Bill No. 1430.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Second Substitute House Bill No. 1430, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 96, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 2.

Excused: Representatives Campbell and Morrell - 2.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1813, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2463, by Representatives Moeller and Morrell

Modifying dental licensure provisions.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted and SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2463 was read the second time.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Moeller and Hinkle spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2463.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2463, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 96, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 1.


Voting nay: Representative Anderson - 1.

Excused: Representative Morrell - 1.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2562, by Representatives Wood, Conway, Fromhold and Condotta; by request of Liquor Control Board

Regulating flavored malt beverage.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Wood and Condotta spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2562.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2562, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 96, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 1.


Voting nay: Representative Anderson - 1.

Excused: Representative Morrell - 1.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2562, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2563, by Representatives Wood, Conway, Fromhold and Condotta; by request of Liquor Control Board

Concerning the processing of liquor licenses.
The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted and SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2563 was read the second time.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Wood and Condotta spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2563.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2563, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Voting nay: Representative Curtis - 1.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2563, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2587, by Representatives Blake, Buck, Takko, Chase, Morrell, Kessler, Williams, Buri, Linville, McCoy, Morris, Flannigan, Eickmeyer, B. Sullivan, Wallace, Dunshee, Haigh, Kenney, Lantz, Hunt and Conway

Designating the Lady Washington as the official ship of the state of Washington.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Blake and Buck spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2587.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2587, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 97, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Voting nay: Representative Curtis - 1.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2587, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2615, by Representatives Quall, Morris and Clibborn; by request of Insurance Commissioner

Exempting certain private air ambulance services from licensing under the insurance code.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representative Quall spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2615.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House
Bill No. 2615, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2654, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2655, by Representatives Takko, Orcutt, Dunn and Fromhold

Modifying disbursement of the metropolitan park district fund.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was on final passage.

Representatives Takko and Orcutt spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2655.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2655, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 2655, having received the necessary
constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2656, by Representatives Takko, Schindler, Simpson, Dunn, Moeller, Ahern and Fromhold

Modifying county lien authority.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted and SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2656 was read the second time.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Takko and Schindler spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2656.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2656, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Linville and Jarrett spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2676.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2676, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 2676, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2825, by Representatives Lovick and McCoy

Revising provisions relating to deferred disposition of juveniles.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Lovick and McDonald spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2825.
ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2825, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 97, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Voting nay: Representative Roberts - 1.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2825, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2897, by Representatives Condotta and Dunn

Modifying the liquor licensee's caterer's endorsement to include passenger vessels.

The bill was read the second time.

Voting yea: Representative Morris and Mr. Speaker - 97.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Condotta, Conway and Dunn spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2897.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2897, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 97, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2900, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2908, by Representatives Bailey, Schindler and Strow

Modifying the boundary provision for Island county.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted and SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2908 was read the second time.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Bailey and Simpson spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2908.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2908, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Voting nay: Representative DeBolt - 1.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Kessler and Schindler spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2960.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2960, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 97, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Voting nay: Representative DeBolt - 1.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2960, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2975, by Representatives Newhouse, Kirby and Dunn

Granting an exemption under the state securities act.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Newhouse and Kirby spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2975.

ROLL CALL
The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2975, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 2975, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2979, by Representatives Hasegawa, Chase, Roberts and Santos

Addressing cultural upbringing in parenting plans.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted and SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2979 was read the second time.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Hasegawa and McDonald spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2979.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2979, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2983, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2991, by Representatives Darneille, Walsh, Springer and Simpson

Concerning background checks of metropolitan park district employees.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Darneille and Walsh spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2991.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2991, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 97, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Voting nay: Representative Dunn - 1.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3019, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3041, by Representatives Alexander, Nixon, Haigh, Darneille and P. Sullivan

Modifying voter registration timelines.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Alexander and Haigh spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 3041.
ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 3041, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 3041, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3048, by Representatives Moeller and Darneille; by request of Uniform Legislation Commission

Changing the effective date of the uniform interstate family support act.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Moeller and McDonald spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 3048.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 3048, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 3048, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3056, by Representatives Takko, Woods, Clibborn, B. Sullivan and Springer

Allowing second class cities and towns to pay claims by check or warrant.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Takko and Schindler spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 3056.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 3056, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.

Williams, Wood, Woods and Mr. Speaker - 98.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3056, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3073, by Representatives McIntire, Nixon, Sommers, Haigh, Morrell, McDermott, Simpson, Hunt, Ericks and Schual-Berke

Authorizing shared leave for declared emergencies.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives McIntire and Nixon spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 3073.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 3073, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 3205, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4038, by Representatives Hinkle, Cody and Santos

Requesting that certified diabetes educators be added as Medicare providers.

The joint memorial was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The joint memorial was placed on final passage.

The Speaker (Representative Morris presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Joint Memorial No. 4038.
ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Joint Memorial No. 4038, and the joint memorial passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 2718, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

SECOND READING

HOUSE BILL NO. 2328, by Representatives Lantz and Priest

Changing provisions relating to the insanity defense.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Lantz and Priest spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2328.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2328 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.

Including financial literacy in work activity provisions.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2394 was substituted for House Bill No. 2394 and the substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2394 was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Dickerson and Anderson spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2394.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2394 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2394, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

February 8, 2006

Mr. Speaker:

The Senate has passed:

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 5527,
SECOND ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 6010,
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6540,
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8039,
and the same are herewith transmitted.

Thomas Hoemann, Secretary

There being no objection, the House advanced to the fourth order of business.

INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

ESSB 5204 by Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Brandland, Kastama, Sheldon, Rasmussen, Spanel, Hargrove and Shin)

AN ACT Relating to chattel liens; amending RCW 60.10.030 and 60.10.040; adding new sections to chapter 60.08 RCW; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

SSB 6161 by Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation (originally sponsored by Senator Oke)

AN ACT Relating to group fishing permits for outdoor education programs working with the department of fish and wildlife; and amending RCW 77.32.550.

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks.

SB 6187 by Senator Keiser

AN ACT Relating to removing tricare supplemental insurance policies from the definition of health plan or health benefit plan; and amending RCW 48.43.005.

Referred to Committee on Health Care.

SSB 6192 by Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Environment (originally sponsored by Senators Poulsen, Rockefeller, Rasmussen and Fraser)

AN ACT Relating to assessing the viability of a solar electric generating facility; creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

SSB 6257 by Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development (originally sponsored by Senator Delvin)

AN ACT Relating to security guard licenses; amending RCW 18.170.020; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

SB 6264 by Senators Kohl-Welles, Parlette, Honeyford, Keiser, Prentice, Kline, McAuliffe and Roach; by request of Department of Labor & Industries

AN ACT Relating to allowing an injured worker to change total permanent disability pension options under certain circumstances; and amending RCW 51.32.067.

Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

SSB 6305 by Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Prentice, Johnson and Kohl-Welles)

AN ACT Relating to financial literacy; amending RCW 74.08A.250 and 74.08A.260; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

SSB 6377 by Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Doumit, Rasmussen, Schoesler, Swecker, Morton, Zarelli, Shin and Pflug)

AN ACT Relating to regulation of milk and milk products; amending RCW 15.36.012, 15.36.111, and 15.36.511; adding new sections to chapter 15.36 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

Referred to Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade.

SSB 6728 by Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Environment (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Swecker, Fairley, Prentice, Spanel, Thibaudeau and Franklin)

AN ACT Relating to seller disclosure of information concerning unimproved real property zoned for residential use; and amending RCW 64.06.005 and 64.06.020.

Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

There being no objection, the bills listed on the day's introduction sheet under the fourth order of business were referred to the committees so designated.

There being no objection, the House advanced to the sixth order of business.

SECOND READING

HOUSE BILL NO. 2477, by Representatives Green, Nixon, Haigh, Hunt, Moeller and Rodne; by request of
Secretary of State

Making technical changes to election laws.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Green and Nixon spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2477.

MOTIONS

On motion of Representative Santos, Speaker Chopp was excused. On motion of Representative Clements, Representative DeBolt was excused.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2477 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 96, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 2.


Excused: Representatives DeBolt and Mr. Speaker - 2.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2477, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2478, by Representatives Green, Nixon, Haigh and Hunt; by request of Secretary of State

Clarifying laws on ballot measures.

The bill was read the second time.

Representative Nixon moved the adoption of amendment (682):

On page 4, line 25, after "who" insert "knowingly"

On page 4, line 25, after "that" strike "appears to support" and insert "supports"

Representatives Nixon and Green spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted. The bill was ordered engrossed.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Green and Nixon spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed House Bill No. 2478.

MOTION

On motion of Representative Santos, Representative Clibborn was excused.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed House Bill No. 2478 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 89, Nays - 6, Absent - 0, Excused - 3.


Excused: Representatives Clibborn, DeBolt and Mr. Speaker - 3.

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 2478, having received
the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2520, by Representative Nixon

Recodifying and making technical corrections to public disclosure law.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Nixon and Haigh spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2520.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2520 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 95, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 3.


Excused: Representatives Clibborn, DeBolt and Mr. Speaker - 3.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2520, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2543, by Representatives Kilmer, Crouse, Nixon, Hudgins, Morrell, Green and Lantz; by request of Military Department

Making permanent the enhanced 911 advisory committee.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2543 was substituted for House Bill No. 2543 and the substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2543 was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Kilmer and Crouse spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2543.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2543 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 95, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 3.


Excused: Representatives Clibborn, DeBolt and Mr. Speaker - 3.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2543, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2601, by Representatives Hunter, Anderson, Morris, Jarrett, Nixon, O'Brien, Hudgins, Tom, Kilmer and Wallace

Regarding state purchasing of information technology projects.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2601 was substituted for House Bill No. 2601 and the substitute bill
was placed on the second reading calendar.

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2601** was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Hunter and Anderson spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of **Substitute House Bill No. 2601**.

**ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2601 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 95, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 3.


Excused: Representatives Cibborn, DeBolt and Mr. Speaker - 3.

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2601**, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4023**, by **Representatives Moeller and Buck**, moved in favor of passage of the joint memorial.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of **House Joint Memorial No. 4023**.

**ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of **House Joint Memorial No. 4023** and the joint memorial passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 95, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 3.


Excused: Representatives Cibborn, DeBolt and Mr. Speaker - 3.

**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4023**, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1071**, by **Representatives Campbell and Morrell**

**Concerning the uniform disciplinary act for health professions.**

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, **Second Substitute House Bill No. 1071** was substituted for House Bill No. 1071 and the second substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 1071** was read the second time.

With the consent of the House, amendment (668) was withdrawn.

Representative Campbell moved the adoption of amendment (670):...
On page 2, after line 19, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 18.130 RCW to read as follows:

The secretary, with the advice and consultation of the other disciplining authorities, shall adopt a schedule that defines appropriate ranges of sanctions that are applicable to a finding after a hearing that a license holder has committed unprofessional conduct as defined in this chapter or the chapters specified in RCW 18.130.040(2). The schedule must identify aggravating and mitigating circumstances that may enhance or reduce the sanction imposed by the disciplining authority for each act of unprofessional conduct. The schedule must apply to all disciplining authorities. In addition, the secretary shall make provisions for instances in which there are multiple findings of unprofessional conduct. When establishing the schedule, the secretary shall consider maintaining consistent sanction determinations that balance the protection of the public's health and the rights of health care providers of the different health professions.

Sec. 4. RCW 18.130.050 and 1995 c 336 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

The disciplining authority has the following authority:

(1) To adopt, amend, and rescind such rules as are deemed necessary to carry out this chapter;

(2) To investigate all complaints or reports of unprofessional conduct as defined in this chapter and to hold hearings as provided in this chapter;

(3) To issue subpoenas and administer oaths in connection with any investigation, hearing, or proceeding held under this chapter;

(4) To take or cause depositions to be taken and use other discovery procedures as needed in any investigation, hearing, or proceeding held under this chapter;

(5) To compel attendance of witnesses at hearings;

(6) In the course of investigating a complaint or report of unprofessional conduct, to conduct practice reviews;

(7) To use individual members of the boards to direct investigations. However, the member of the board shall not subsequently participate in the hearing of the case;

(8) To enter into contracts for professional services determined to be necessary for adequate enforcement of this chapter;

(9) To contract with licensees or other persons or organizations to provide services necessary for the monitoring and supervision of licensees who are placed on probation, whose professional activities are restricted, or who are for any authorized purpose subject to monitoring by the disciplining authority;

(10) To adopt standards of professional conduct or practice;

(11) To grant or deny license applications, and in the event of a finding of unprofessional conduct by an applicant or license holder, to impose any sanction consistent with section 2 of this act against a license applicant or license holder provided by this chapter;

Sec. 5. RCW 18.130.060 and 2001 c 101 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

In addition to the authority specified in RCW 18.130.050, the secretary has the following additional authority:

(1) To employ such investigatory, administrative, and clerical staff as necessary for the enforcement of this chapter;

(2) Upon the request of a board, to appoint pro tem members to participate as members of a panel of the board in connection with proceedings specifically identified in the request. Individuals so appointed must meet the same minimum qualifications as regular members of the board. Pro tem members appointed for matters under this chapter are appointed for a term of no more than one year. No pro tem member may serve more than four one-year terms. While serving as board members pro tem, persons so appointed have all the powers, duties, and immunities, and are entitled to the emoluments, including travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, of regular members of the board. The chairperson of a panel shall be a regular member of the board appointed by the board chairperson. Panels have authority to act as directed by the board with respect to all matters concerning the review, investigation, and adjudication of all complaints, allegations, charges, and matters subject to the jurisdiction of the board. The authority of the board to act through panels does not restrict the authority of the board to act as a single body at any phase of proceedings within the board's jurisdiction. Board panels may make interim orders and issue final decisions with respect to matters and cases delegated to the panel by the board. Final decisions may be appealed as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act;

(3) To establish fees to be paid for witnesses, expert witnesses, and consultants used in any investigation and to establish fees to witnesses in any agency adjudicative proceeding as authorized by RCW 34.05.446;

(4) To conduct investigations and practice reviews at the direction of the disciplining authority and to issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and take depositions in the course of conducting those investigations and practice reviews at the direction of the disciplining authority;

(5) To take emergency action ordering summary suspension of a license, or restriction or limitation of the license holder's practice pending proceedings by the disciplining authority;

(6) To have the health professions regulatory program establish a system to recruit potential public members, to review the qualifications of such potential members, and to provide orientation to those public members appointed pursuant to law by the governor or the secretary to the boards and commissions specified in RCW 18.130.040(2)(b), and to the advisory committees and councils for professions specified in RCW 18.130.040(2)(a).
to read as follows:

Upon a finding, after hearing, that a license holder or applicant has committed unprofessional conduct or is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to a physical or mental condition, the disciplining authority may issue an order providing for one or any combination of the following, in accordance with the schedule adopted by the secretary in section 2 of this act:

1. Revocation of the license;
2. Suspension of the license for a fixed or indefinite term;
3. Restriction or limitation of the practice;
4. Requiring the satisfactory completion of a specific program of remedial education or treatment;
5. The monitoring of the practice by a supervisor approved by the disciplining authority;
6. Censure or reprimand;
7. Compliance with conditions of probation for a designated period of time;
8. Payment of a fine for each violation of this chapter, not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation. Funds received shall be placed in the health professions account;
9. Denial of the license request;
10. Corrective action;
11. Refund of fees billed to and collected from the consumer;
12. A surrender of the practitioner's license in lieu of other sanctions, which must be reported to the federal data bank.

Any of the actions under this section may be totally or partly stayed by the disciplining authority. In determining what action is appropriate, the disciplining authority must consider the schedule adopted by the secretary in section 2 of this act. Where the schedule allows flexibility in determining the appropriate sanction, the disciplining authority must first consider what sanctions are necessary to protect or compensate the public. Only after such provisions have been made may the disciplining authority consider and include in the order requirements designed to rehabilitate the license holder or applicant. All costs associated with compliance with orders issued under this section are the obligation of the license holder or applicant.

The licensee or applicant may enter into a stipulated disposition of charges that includes one or more of the sanctions of this section, but only after a statement of charges has been issued and the licensee has been afforded the opportunity for a hearing and has elected on the record to forego such a hearing. The stipulation shall either contain one or more specific findings of unprofessional conduct or inability to practice, or a statement by the licensee acknowledging that evidence is sufficient to justify one or more specified findings of unprofessional conduct or inability to practice. The stipulation entered into pursuant to this subsection shall be considered formal disciplinary action for all purposes.

Correct the title.

Representatives Campbell and Cody spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted. The bill was ordered engrossed.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Campbell and Curtis spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1071.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1071 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 96, Nays - 2, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 1071, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.


Establishing a health care declarations registry.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Second Substitute House Bill No. 2342 was substituted for House Bill No. 2342 and the second substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2342 was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.
Representatives Moeller and Curtis spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Second Substitute House Bill No. 2342.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Second Substitute House Bill No. 2342 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 97, Nays - 1, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Voting nay: Representative Cox - 1.

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2342, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2974, by Representatives Cody, Morrell and Moeller

Modifying provisions with respect to disciplining health professions.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2974 was substituted for House Bill No. 2974 and the substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2974 was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Cody and Schual-Berke spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

Representative Hinkle spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2974.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2974 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 61, Nays - 37, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2974, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2376, by Representatives Clibborn, Morrell, Murray, Wallace, Cody, Schual-Berke, Simpson, Green, Sells, Ormsby, Appleton, Fromhold, Hunt, Kenney, Kessler, Lantz, Miloscia, Moeller and Williams; by request of Governor Gregoire

Repealing cost-sharing in medical programs.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2376 was substituted for House Bill No. 2376 and the substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2376 was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Clibborn, Schual-Berke and Lantz spoke in favor of passage of the bill.
Representatives Hinkle and Serben spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2376.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2376 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 72, Nays - 26, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2376, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2573, by Representatives Morrell, Wallace, Clibborn, Cody, Flannigan, Simpson, Green, Ormsby, Springer, Kilmer, Moeller, Kagi and Conway; by request of Governor Gregoire

Adopting health information technology to improve quality of care.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2573 was substituted for House Bill No. 2573 and the substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2573 was read the second time.

Representative Bailey moved the adoption of amendment (698):

On page 1, line 4, after "Sec. 1." strike "(1)"

On page 1, beginning on line 9, strike all material through "2012."

Representatives Bailey and Hinkle spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representatives Cody spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was not adopted.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representative Morrell spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

Representative Hinkle spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2573.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2573 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 75, Nays - 23, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2573, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2333, by Representatives Green, Haler, Conway, Curtis, Fromhold, McDonald, Walsh, Strow, Sells, Campbell, Miloscia, Roach, P. Sullivan, Morrell, McDermott, Serben, Darneille, Appleton, Williams, Chase, Moeller, Hasegawa, Rodne, Linville,
The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2376 on reconsideration.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2376 on reconsideration, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 74, Nays - 24, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2376, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed on reconsideration.


Establishing the small employer health insurance partnership program.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572 was substituted for House Bill No. 2572 and the second substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2572 was read the second time.

Representative Cody moved the adoption of amendment (717):

RECONSIDERATION

Providing parity for home care agency workers.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2333 was substituted for House Bill No. 2333 and the substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2333 was read the second time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Green and Haler spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2333.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2333 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2333, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

On motion of Representative Kessler, the House immediately reconsidered the vote on third reading by which SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2376 passed the House.
On page 2, beginning on line 13, after "by a" strike all material through "welfare arrangement" on line 14, and insert "self-funded multiple employer welfare arrangement as defined in RCW 48.125.010"

Representative Cody spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted.

Representative Hinkle moved the adoption of amendment (713):

On page 2, line 32, after "4 of this act" insert "or a business and occupation tax deduction under section 5 of this act"

On page 3, after line 37, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 82.04 RCW to read as follows:

(1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax the amount paid by small employers to provide health care services for its employees. Payments made by employees are not eligible for deduction under this subsection.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Small employer" has the meaning provided in RCW 48.43.005;

(b) "Health care services" means a health benefit plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005, contributions to health savings accounts as defined by the United States internal revenue service, or other health care services purchased by the small employer for its employees."

Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct internal references accordingly.

On page 5, after line 21, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. Section 5 of this act takes effect July 1, 2006."

Correct the title.

Representative Hinkle and Ericksen spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative McIntire spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

An electronic roll call vote was demanded and the demand was sustained.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be adoption of amendment (713) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the adoption of amendment (713) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572, and the amendment was not adopted by the following vote: Yeas - 43, Nays - 55, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Representative Bailey moved the adoption of amendment (724):

On page 2, line 32, after "act" insert ", or subsidies to fund a health savings account under section 5 of this act"

On page 2, after line 32, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT SUBSIDIES TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES. (1) Beginning July 1, 2007, the administrator shall accept applications from eligible employees, on behalf of themselves, their spouses, and their dependent children, to receive subsidies to fund a health savings account through the small employer health insurance partnership program.

(2) Health savings account subsidy payments may be provided to eligible employees if:

(a) The eligible employee is employed by a small employer; and

(b) The eligible employee participates in an employer sponsored high deductible health plan and health savings account that conforms to section 223, Part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the internal revenue code of 1986.

(3) The amount of an eligible employee's health savings account subsidy shall be determined by the legislature in the biennial operating budget.

(4) After an eligible individual has enrolled in the program, the program shall issue subsidies in an amount determined pursuant to subsection (3) of this section to either the eligible employee or to the carrier designated by the eligible employee.

(5) An eligible employee must agree to provide verification of continued enrollment in his or her small employer's health benefit plan on a semiannual basis or to notify the administrator whenever his or her enrollment status changes, whichever is earlier. Verification or notification may be made directly by the employee, or through his or her employer or the carrier providing the small employer health benefit plan. When necessary, the administrator has the authority to perform retrospective audits on health savings account subsidy accounts. The administrator may suspend or
terminate an employee's participation in the program and seek repayment of any subsidy amounts paid due to the omission or misrepresentation of an applicant or enrolled employee. The administrator shall adopt rules to define the appropriate application of these sanctions and the processes to implement the sanctions provided in this subsection, within available resources."

Representative Bailey spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Cody spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

An electronic roll call vote was demanded and the demand was sustained.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to adoption of amendment (724) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the adoption of amendment (724) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572, and the amendment was not adopted by the following vote: Yeas - 43, Nays - 55,Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Representative Hinkle moved the adoption of amendment (714):

On page 5, after line 17, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct a program and fiscal review of the small employer health insurance partnership program and report their findings and recommendation to the appropriate committees of the legislature no later than December 1, 2009."

Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct internal references accordingly.

Correct the title.

Representatives Hinkle and Linville spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted.

Representative Bailey moved the adoption of amendment (720):

On page 5, after line 21, insert the following:
"Sec. 12. RCW 48.21.045 and 2004 c 244 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) An insurer offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude an insurer from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. An insurer offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.


(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The insurer shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;

(ii) Family size;

(iii) Age; and

(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The insurer shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which Medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which Medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all small groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus (fours) eight percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool(ifs such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within thirty days of submittal) if certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, claims cost trend for the plan, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool.

(j) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(k) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all small groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus (fours) eight percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool(ifs such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool.

(l) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(m) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by an insurer in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(n) An insurer shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and

(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(o) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(p) An insurer may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(q) An insurer must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. An insurer may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a
small employer group or to only part of the group. An insurer may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

(3) As used in this section, "health benefit plan," "small employer," "adjusted community rate," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

Sec. 13. RCW 48.44.023 and 2004 c 244 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) A health care services contractor offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a contractor from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. A contractor offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.44.225, 48.44.240, 48.44.245, 48.44.290, 48.44.300, 48.44.310, 48.44.320, 48.44.325, 48.44.330, 48.44.335, 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.360, 48.44.400, 48.44.440, 48.44.450, and 48.44.460.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service contractor from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The contractor shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;
(ii) Family size;
(iii) Age; and
(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The contractor shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;
(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;
(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or
(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus ((fifteen)) eight percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool; that overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submittal) if certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries, that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, claims cost trend for the plan, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than eight percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner and must be approved or denied within thirty days of submittal. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days at the time of the denial.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a contractor in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) A contractor shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and
(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees
or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A contractor may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(6) A contractor must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A contractor may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A contractor may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

**Sec. 14.** RCW 48.46.066 and 2004 c 244 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) A health maintenance organization offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a health maintenance organization from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. A health maintenance organization offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all the covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.46.275, 48.46.280, 48.46.285, 48.46.290, 48.46.350, 48.46.355, 48.46.375, 48.46.440, 48.46.480, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, and 48.46.530.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health maintenance organization from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The health maintenance organization shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;

(ii) Family size;

(iii) Age; and

(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The health maintenance organization shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which Medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which Medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection ((H(4)) (4).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer, or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus (((4%))) eight percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool; such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American Academy of actuaries that:

(i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and

(ii) As a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submission) if certified by a member of the American Academy of actuaries that:

(i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, claims cost trend for the plan, or provider network characteristics; and

(ii) As a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the health maintenance organization's small group pool. Variations greater than eight percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within thirty days of submission. Variations that are not denied within ((sixty)) thirty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial ((within thirty days)) at the time of the denial.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a health maintenance organization in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.
(b) A health maintenance organization shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and
(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A health maintenance organization may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(e) A health maintenance organization must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A health maintenance organization may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A health maintenance organization may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

Correct internal references and correct the title.

POINT OF ORDER

Representative Hunt requested a scope and object ruling on the amendment (720) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding): "Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572 is an act relating to "establishment of the small employer health insurance partnership program." The bill creates a new chapter in Title 70 RCW and establishes a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority. The bill does not make any changes to the insurance code in Title 48.

Amendment (720) changes insurance regulations for carriers participating in the small group market and amends the insurance code in Title 48.

The amendment is unrelated to the establishment of a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority, and is therefore, beyond the scope and object of the bill.

Representative Hunt, your point of order is well taken."

Representative Bailey moved the adoption of amendment (721):

On page 5, after line 21, insert the following:

"Sec. 12. RCW 48.21.045 and 2004 c 244 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) An insurer offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude an insurer from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. An insurer offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.


(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The insurer shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;
(ii) Family size;
(iii) Age; and
(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The insurer shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;
(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;
(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or
(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that
contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered
similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such
a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network
providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier
may develop its rates based on claims costs (due to network provider
reimbursement schedules or type of network) for a plan. This
subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as
provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Except for small group health benefit plans that qualify as
insurance coverage combined with a health savings account as
defined by the United States internal revenue service, adjusted
community rates established under this section shall pool the medical
experience of all small groups purchasing coverage. However,
annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may
vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall
adjustment of a carrier’s entire small group pool, such overall
adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by
the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of
actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage,
benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate
renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group
benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier’s small
group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are
subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or
denied within sixty days of submittal. A variation that is not denied
within sixty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must
provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial
(within thirty days of the denial).

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees
to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of
those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used
by an insurer in determining whether to provide coverage to a small
employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers
applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) An insurer shall not require a minimum participation level
greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for
groups with three or less employees; and
(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for
groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect
to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or
dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining
whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) An insurer may not increase any requirement for minimum
employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum
employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time
after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(e) An insurer must offer coverage to all eligible employees of
a small employer and their dependents. An insurer may not offer
coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small
employer group or to only part of the group. An insurer may not
modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible
employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise,
to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases,
medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

(7) As used in this section, “health benefit plan,” “small
employer,” “adjusted community rate,” and “wellness activities” mean
the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

Sec. 13. RCW 48.44.023 and 2004 c 244 s 7 are each amended
to read as follows:

(1)(a) A health care services contractor offering any health
benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an
association or member-governed group formed specifically for the
purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to
the small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule
of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall
preclude a contractor from offering, or a small employer from
purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more
comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered
under this subsection. A contractor offering a health benefit plan
under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the
small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall
provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a
physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not
subject to the requirements of RCW 48.44.225, 48.44.240,
48.44.245, 48.44.290, 48.44.300, 48.44.310, 48.44.320, 48.44.325,
48.44.330, 48.44.335, 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.360, 48.44.400,
48.44.440, 48.44.450, and 48.44.460.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service
contractor from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit
plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under
subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall
be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any
plan offered under this subsection shall be reasonable in relation to the
benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers
as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The contractor shall develop its rates based on an adjusted
community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;
(ii) Family size;
(iii) Age; and
(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not
use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin
with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the
age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The contractor shall be permitted to develop separate rates
for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which
medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not
the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of
this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than
four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups
on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and
three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and
thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect
actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such
programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this
section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that
the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;
(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;
(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small
employer; or
(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health
benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups
that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs (due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network) for a plan. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Except for small group health benefit plans that qualify as insurance coverage combined with a health savings account as defined by the United States internal revenue service, adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool, such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submission. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days of the denial.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a contractor in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) A contractor shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and

(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A contractor may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(e) A contractor must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A contractor may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A contractor may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

Sec. 14. RCW 48.46.066 and 2004 c 244 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) A health maintenance organization offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a health maintenance organization from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. A health maintenance organization offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all the covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.46.275, 48.46.280, 48.46.285, 48.46.290, 48.46.350, 48.46.355, 48.46.375, 48.46.440, 48.46.480, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, and 48.46.530.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health maintenance organization from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The health maintenance organization shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;

(ii) Family size;

(iii) Age; and

(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The health maintenance organization shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.
(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs (due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network) for a plan. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Except for small group health benefit plans that qualify as insurance coverage combined with a health savings account as defined by the United States internal revenue service, adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool, such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submittal. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days of the denial.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a health maintenance organization in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) A health maintenance organization shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and

(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A health maintenance organization may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(e) A health maintenance organization must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A health maintenance organization may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A health maintenance organization may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan."

Correct internal references and correct the title.

POIN T OF ORDER

Representative Hunt requested a scope and object ruling on the amendment (721) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding): "Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572 is an act relating to "establishment of the small employer health insurance partnership program." The bill creates a new chapter in Title 70 RCW and establishes a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority. The bill does not make any changes to the insurance code in Title 48.

Amendment (721) changes insurance regulations for carriers participating in the small group market and amends the insurance code in Title 48.

The amendment is unrelated to the establishment of a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority, and is therefore, beyond the scope and object of the bill.

Representative Hunt, your point of order is well taken."

Representative Bailey moved the adoption of amendment (722):

On page 5, after line 21, insert the following:

"Sec. 12. RCW 48.21.045 and 2004 c 244 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(((i))) An insurer offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to thesmall employer ((i)) no more than one health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. ((Nothing in this subsection shall preclude an insurer from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. An insurer offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.))


48.43.045(1) except as required in (b) of this subsection. 48.43.093, 48.43.115 through 48.43.185. 48.43.515(5), or 48.42.100.

(b) In offering the plan under this subsection, the insurer must offer the small employer the option of permitting every category of health care provider to provide health services or care for conditions covered by the plan pursuant to RCW 48.43.045(1).

(2) An insurer offering the plan under subsection (1) of this section must also offer and actively market to the small employer at least one additional health benefit plan.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(((4))) (4) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The insurer shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;
(ii) Family size;
(iii) Age; and
(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The insurer shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage which Medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which Medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (((4))) (4).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and four hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;
(ii) Changes to the composition of the employee;
(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or
(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the experience of all small groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool, such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submittal. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days of the denial.

(((4))) (5) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(((5))) (6)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by an insurer in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) An insurer shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and
(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) An insurer may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(((6))) (7) An insurer must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. An insurer may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. An insurer may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

(((7))) (8) As used in this section, "health benefit plan," "small employer," "adjusted community rate," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

Sec. 13. RCW 48.44.023 and 2004 c 244 § 7 are each amended to read as follows:

((1))) (1) A health care services contractor offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer (((6))) (6) no more than one health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. (Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a contractor from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that
may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. A contractor offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.44.225, 48.44.245, 48.44.290, 48.44.320, 48.44.325, 48.44.330, 48.44.335, 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.345, 48.44.400, 48.44.440, 48.44.450, and 48.44.460.

(2)(a) The plan offered under this subsection may be offered with a choice of cost-sharing arrangements, and may, but is not required to, comply with: RCW 48.44.210, 48.44.212, 48.44.225, 48.44.240 through 48.44.245, 48.44.290 through 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.360 through 48.44.380, 48.44.400, 48.44.420, 48.44.440 through 48.44.460, 48.44.500, 48.43.045(1) except as required in (b) of this subsection, 48.43.093, 48.43.115 through 48.43.185, 48.43.515(5), or 48.42.100.

(b) In offering the plan under this subsection, the health care service contractor must offer the small employer the option of permitting every category of health care provider to provide health services or care for conditions covered by the plan pursuant to RCW 48.43.045(1).

(2) A health care service contractor offering the plan under subsection (1) of this section must also offer and actively market to the small employer at least one additional health benefit plan.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service contractor from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(4) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The contractor shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;

(ii) Family size;

(iii) Age; and

(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The contractor shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (4).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus four percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool, such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submittal. A variation that is not denied within sixty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days of the denial.

(4) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(6)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a contractor in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) A contractor shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and

(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A contractor may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(7) A contractor must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A contractor may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in
a small employer group or to only part of the group. A contractor may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

Sec. 14. RCW 48.46.066 and 2004 c 244 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A health maintenance organization offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer no more than one health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a health maintenance organization from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. A health maintenance organization offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all the covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.46.275, 48.46.280, 48.46.285, 48.46.290, 48.46.350, 48.46.355, 48.46.375, 48.46.440, 48.46.480, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, and 48.46.530.

(2) A health maintenance organization offering the plan under this subsection may be offered with a choice of cost-sharing arrangements, and may, but is not required to, comply with: RCW 48.46.250, 48.46.272 through 48.46.290, 48.46.320, 48.46.350, 48.46.375, 48.46.440 through 48.46.460, 48.46.480, 48.46.490, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, 48.46.530, 48.46.565, 48.46.570, 48.46.575, 48.43.048(1), except as required in (b) of this subsection, 48.43.093, 48.43.115 through 48.43.185, 48.43.515(5), or 48.42.100.

(b) In offering the plan under this subsection, the health maintenance organization must offer the small employer the option of permitting every category of health care provider to provide health services or care for conditions covered by the plan pursuant to RCW 48.43.048(1).

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health maintenance organization from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, a health benefit plan with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(4) (a) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(i) The health maintenance organization shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(ii) Geographic area;

(iii) Family size;

(iv) Age; and

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The health maintenance organization shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (((4))) (4).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus ((66)) eight percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool, except as required in (b) of this subsection.

(6) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(7) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a health maintenance organization in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.
(b) A health maintenance organization shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:
   (i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and
   (ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.
   (c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.
   (d) A health maintenance organization may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

((66)) (7) A health maintenance organization must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A health maintenance organization may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A health maintenance organization may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan."

Correct internal references and correct the title.

POINT OF ORDER

Representative Hunt requested a scope and object ruling on the amendment (722) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding): "Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572 is an act relating to "establishment of the small employer health insurance partnership program." The bill creates a new chapter in Title 70 RCW and establishes a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority. The bill does not make any changes to the insurance code in Title 48. Amendment 722 changes insurance regulations for carriers participating in the small group market and amends the insurance code in Title 48.
   The amendment is unrelated to the establishment of a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority, and is therefore, beyond the scope and object of the bill.
   Representative Hunt, your point of order is well taken."

   Representative Bailey moved the adoption of amendment (727):

   On page 5, after line 21, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. The legislature finds and declares that there has been an ongoing controversy over the costs and benefits of existing health care coverage statutory requirements and their effect on health care insurance costs. It is for this reason that an unbiased, independent actuarial study of existing health care coverage statutory requirements needs to be conducted. It is not the intent of the legislature to take any actions in relation to the findings of the study until they can be reviewed and analyzed by the legislature, in consultation with the office of the insurance commissioner, health care providers, health carriers, and health care purchasers.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 13. The office of the insurance commissioner shall contract for an actuarial review and analysis of existing health care coverage statutory requirements. The office of the insurance commissioner shall:
   (1) Contract with a qualified independent and impartial entity that has not taken a public position in the past on the merits or consequences of the adoption of health care coverage statutory requirements;
   (2) Provide that the review of health care coverage statutory requirements include statutes that:
      (a) Mandate that health carriers provide benefits for certain conditions or services;
      (b) Prohibit discrimination between health care provider groups who deliver services that are included in a health benefit plan;
      (c) Establish requirements as to how a particular service or benefit must be provided by a health carrier in its health benefit plans; and
      (d) Require health carriers to offer certain services as an option for individuals or groups purchasing a health benefit plan;
   (3) Include the following analyses in the scope of the actuarial review:
      (a) The cost of including the statutory requirements in health benefit plans, taking into consideration the impact that covering the statutory requirement has on the utilization of other health services, expressed as a net premium cost or savings per member per month; and
      (b) An assessment of whether market demand has already resulted in inclusion of current statutory requirements in a significant number of health benefit plans in states that do not have such statutory requirements; and
   (4) Submit an interim report to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2005, and a final report by December 1, 2006."
   Correct the title.

Representatives Bailey and Ericksen spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Linville spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

An electronic roll call was requested.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to adoption of amendment (727) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the adoption of amendment (727) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572, and the
amendment was not adopted by the following vote: Yeas - 42, Nays - 56, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


Representative Bailey moved the adoption of amendment (723):

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"Sec. 1. RCW 48.21.045 and 2004 c 244 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)((((a))) An insurer offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer an insurer from four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and


(2)(a) The plan offered under this subsection may be offered with a choice of cost-sharing arrangements, and may, but is not required to, comply with: RCW 48.21.130 through 48.21.240, 48.21.244 through 48.21.280, 48.21.300 through 48.21.320, 48.43.045(1) except as required in (b) of this subsection, 48.43.093, 48.43.115 through 48.43.185, 48.43.515(5), or 48.42.100.

(b) In offering the plan under this subsection, the insurer must offer the small employer the option of permitting every category of health care provider to provide health services or care for conditions covered by the plan pursuant to RCW 48.43.045(1).

(2) An insurer offering the plan under subsection (1) of this section must also offer and actively market to the small employer at least one additional health benefit plan.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(((((4)))) (4) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The insurer shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;

(ii) Family size;

(iii) Age; and

(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not vary the adjusted community rate by more than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The insurer shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (((4))) (4).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer;

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs (due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network) for a plan. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Except for small group health benefit plans that qualify as insurance coverage combined with a health savings account as defined by the United States internal revenue service, adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all small groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may
vary by up to plus or minus ([four]) eight percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier's entire small group pool([six]) such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submittal) if certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, claims cost trend for the plan, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier's small group pool. Variations of greater than eight percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within thirty days of submittal. A variation that is not denied within ([sixty]) thirty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial ([within thirty days]) at the time of the denial.

(((5))) (5) Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(((5)))((6)) (a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by an insurer in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) An insurer shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and

(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) An insurer may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(((6))) (7) An insurer must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. An insurer may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. An insurer may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

(((7))) (8) As used in this section, "health benefit plan," "small employer," "adjusted community rate," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005.

Sec. 2. RCW 48.44.023 and 2004 c 244 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

((1))((7)) (a) A health care services contractor offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer ((an)) no more than one health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. (Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a contractor from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. A contractor offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.75 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.44.225, 48.44.240, 48.44.245, 48.44.290, 48.44.300, 48.44.310, 48.44.320, 48.44.325, 48.44.330, 48.44.335, 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.360, 48.44.400, 48.44.440, 48.44.450, and 48.44.460.

(2)) (a) The plan offered under this subsection may be offered with a choice of cost-sharing arrangements, and may, but is not required to, comply with: RCW 48.44.210, 48.44.212, 48.44.225, 48.44.240, 48.44.245, through 48.44.245, 48.44.290 through 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.345, 48.44.360 through 48.44.380, 48.44.400, 48.44.420, 48.44.440 through 48.44.460, 48.44.500, 48.43.045(1) except as required in (b) of this subsection, 48.43.093, 48.43.115 through 48.43.185, 48.43.515(5), or 48.42.100.

(b) In offering the plan under this subsection, the health care service contractor must offer the small employer the option of permitting every category of health care provider to provide health services or care for conditions covered by the plan pursuant to RCW 48.43.045(1).

(2) A health care service contractor offering the plan under subsection (1) of this section must also offer and actively market to the small employer at least one additional health benefit plan.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service contractor from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(((4))) (4) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The contractor shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;

(ii) Family size; and

(iii) Age; and

(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The contractor shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (((4))) (4).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.
(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs (due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network) for a plan. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Except for small group health benefit plans that qualify as insurance coverage combined with a health savings account as defined by the United States internal revenue service, adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage. However, annual rate adjustments for each small group health benefit plan may vary by up to plus or minus (four) eight percentage points from the overall adjustment of a carrier’s entire small group pool (such overall adjustment to be approved by the commissioner, upon a showing by the carrier, certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage: benefit design, or provider network characteristics and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier’s small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within sixty days of submission) if certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries that:

(1) The variation is a result of deductible leverage: benefit design, claims cost trend for the plan, or provider network characteristics, and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier’s small group pool. Variations of greater than eight percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within thirty days of submission. A variation that is not denied within thirty days shall be deemed approved. The commissioner must provide to the carrier a detailed actuarial justification for any denial within thirty days at the time of the denial.

Sec. 3. RCW 48.46.066 and 2004 c 244 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)((b)) A health maintenance organization offering any health benefit plan to a small employer, either directly or through an association or member-governed group formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care, may offer and actively market to the small employer (b) no more than one health benefit plan featuring a limited schedule of covered health care services. (Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a health maintenance organization from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more comprehensive benefits than those included in the product offered under this subsection. A health maintenance organization offering a health benefit plan under this subsection shall clearly disclose all the covered benefits to the small employer in a brochure filed with the commissioner.)

(b) A health benefit plan offered under this subsection shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.46.275, 48.46.280, 48.46.285, 48.46.290, 48.46.300, 48.46.315, 48.46.375, 48.46.400, 48.46.400, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, and 48.46.530.

(2)((c)) (a) The plan offered under this subsection may be offered with a choice of cost-sharing arrangements, and may, but is not required to, comply with: RCW 48.46.250, 48.46.275, 48.46.275, 48.46.290, 48.46.320, 48.46.350, 48.46.375, 48.46.400, 48.46.460, 48.46.480, 48.46.490, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, 48.46.530, 48.46.565, 48.46.565, 48.46.570, 48.46.575, 48.43.045, except as required in (b) of this subsection, 48.43.093, 48.43.115 through 48.43.185, 48.43.515(5), or 48.42.100.

(b) In offering the plan under this subsection, the health maintenance organization must offer the small employer the option of permitting every category of health care provider to provide health services or care for conditions covered by the plan pursuant to RCW 48.43.045(1).

(c) A health maintenance organization offering the plan under subsection (1) of this section must also offer and actively market to the small employer at least one additional health benefit plan.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health maintenance organization from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, health benefit plans with benefits in excess of the health benefit plan offered
under subsection (1) of this section. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

((24)) (4) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:
(a) The health maintenance organization shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:
(i) Geographic area;
(ii) Family size;
(iii) Age; and
(iv) Wellness activities.
(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.
(c) The health maintenance organization shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection ((24)) (4).
(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.
(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs.
(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:
(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;
(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;
(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or
(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.
(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.
(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. A carrier may develop its rates based on claims costs ((due to network provider reimbursement schedules or type of network)) for a plan. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

((25)) (5) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect:
(a) The variation in the cost of deductible leverage, benefit design, or provider network characteristics; and
(b) A rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the carrier’s small group pool. Variations of greater than four percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within thirty days of submission if certified by a member of the American academy of actuaries, that: (i) The variation is a result of deductible leverage, benefit design, claims cost trend for the plan, or provider network characteristics; and (ii) for a rate renewal period, the projected weighted average of all small group benefit plans will have a revenue neutral effect on the health maintenance organization’s small group pool. Variations of greater than eight percentage points are subject to review by the commissioner, and must be approved or denied within thirty days of submission.

((26)) (6) A health maintenance organization may not offer coverage to a small employer as defined in this section, requirements used by a health maintenance organization in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

((27)) (7) A health maintenance organization shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

((28)) (8) (a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a health maintenance organization in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

((29)) (9) A health maintenance organization may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

((30)) (10) A health maintenance organization must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A health maintenance organization may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A health maintenance organization may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.”

Correct the title.

Representative Bailey spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.
the amendment (723) to Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

**SPEAKER'S RULING**

Mr. Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding): "Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572 is an act relating to "establishment of the small employer health insurance partnership program." The bill creates a new chapter in Title 70 RCW and establishes a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority. The bill does not make any changes to the insurance code in Title 48.

Amendment (723) changes insurance regulations for carriers participating in the small group market and amends the insurance code in Title 48.

The amendment is unrelated to the establishment of a premium assistance program for small business through the Health Care Authority, and is therefore, beyond the scope and object of the bill.

Representative Hunt, your point of order is well taken."

The bill was ordered engrossed.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Morrell, Cody, Eickmeyer, Linville and Flannigan spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

Representatives Hinkle, Serben, Bailey, Anderson, Ahern, Armstrong and Schindler spoke against the passage of the bill.

Representative Morrell (again) spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

**POINT OF ORDER**

Representative Chandler: **

**SPEAKER'S RULING**

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding): ***

Representative Morrell (again) spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

Representatives McDonald, Orcutt and Erickson spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 2572.

**ROLL CALL**
On page 7, beginning on line 24, after "recommendation" strike all material through "conclusion" on line 26 and insert ", at the discretion of the oversight committee"

Representatives Cody and Hinkle spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted.

Representative Cody moved the adoption of amendment (706):

On page 8, at the beginning of line 16 insert "an"

On page 8, beginning on line 16, after "federal statute" strike all material through "recommendation" on line 18 and insert "or regulation, or state statute"

Representatives Cody and Hinkle spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted.

Representative Cody moved the adoption of amendment (707):

On page 10, after line 14, insert the following:

"NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state."

Correct the title.

Representatives Cody and Hinkle spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted. The bill was ordered engrossed.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Cody, Hinkle, Morris and Bailey spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

Representative Ahern spoke against the passage of the bill.

The Speaker (Representative Lovick presiding) stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 2575.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 2575 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 72, Nays - 26, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL No. 2575, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

February 8, 2006

Mr. Speaker:

The Senate has passed:

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 5179,
SENATE BILL NO. 5325,
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6185,
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6188,
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6246,
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6262,
SENATE BILL NO. 6280,
SENATE BILL NO. 6371,
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6617,
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6870,
and the same are herewith transmitted.

Thomas Hoemann, Secretary

February 8, 2006

Mr. Speaker:

The Senate has passed:

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 5126,
SENATE BILL NO. 6159,
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6221,
SENATE BILL NO. 6344,
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6428, ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 6776, SENATE BILL NO. 6816, and the same are herewith transmitted.

Thomas Hoemann, Secretary

SECOND READING SUSPENSION

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2500, by House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Green, Morrell, Cody, Schual-Berke, Clibborn and Conway; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

Requiring health carriers to report certain information.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Green and Hinkle spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2500.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Substitute House Bill No. 2500, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 2972, by Representatives Clibborn, Hinkle, Curtis, B. Sullivan, Cody, Moeller, P. Sullivan, Kenney, Kilmer and Jarrett

Determining community rates for health benefit plans.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, the committee recommendation was adopted.

The bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Clibborn and Hinkle spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker stated the question before the House to be the final passage of House Bill No. 2972.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of House Bill No. 2972, and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


HOUSE BILL NO. 2925, by Representatives Santos, Morrell, Bailey, Cody, Hinkle, Pettigrew, Linville and Schual-Berke

Concerning assisted living facility medicaid minimum occupancy of fifty percent or greater.

The bill was read the second time.

There being no objection, Substitute House Bill No. 2925
was substituted for House Bill No. 2925 and the substitute bill was placed on the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2925 was read the second time.

Representative Hinkle moved the adoption of amendment (712):

On page 1, line 10, after "percentage of" strike "sixty" and insert "fifty"

Representatives Hinkle and Armstrong spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

Representative Cody spoke against the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was not adopted.

Representative Santos moved the adoption of amendment (719):

On page 1, at the beginning of line 7, insert "(1)"

On page 1, after line 18, insert the following:

"(2) This section applies to assisted living facility rates established on or after January 1, 2006."

Representative Santos spoke in favor of the adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted. The bill was ordered engrossed.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended and HOUSE BILL NO. 1383 was returned to Second Reading for purpose of amendments.

There being no objection, the House reverted to the sixth order of business.

SECOND READING

HOUSE BILL NO. 1383, by Representatives Condotta, Bailey, Newhouse, Curtis, Hinkle, Pearson, Kretz, Strow, Armstrong, Kristiansen, Talcott, Skinner and Holmquist

Requiring the public employees' benefits board to develop a health savings account option for employees.

The bill was read the third time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended and HOUSE BILL NO. 1383 was returned to Second Reading for purpose of amendments.

There being no objection, the House reverted to the sixth order of business.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2925 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 98, Nays - 0, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2925, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

THIRD READING

HOUSE BILL NO. 1383, by Representatives Condotta, Bailey, Newhouse, Curtis, Hinkle, Pearson, Kretz, Strow, Armstrong, Kristiansen, Talcott, Skinner and Holmquist

Requiring the public employees' benefits board to develop a health savings account option for employees.

The bill was read the third time.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended and HOUSE BILL NO. 1383 was returned to Second Reading for purpose of amendments.

There being no objection, the House reverted to the sixth order of business.
with the best interests of the state, to provide comprehensive health care as an employer, to state employees and officials and their dependents and to those who are dependent on the state for necessary medical care, and (d) it is imperative that the state begin to develop effective and efficient health care delivery systems and strategies for procuring health care services in order for the state to continue to purchase the most comprehensive health care possible.

(2) It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to establish the Washington state health care authority whose purpose shall be to (a) develop health care benefit programs((c)) that provide access to at least one comprehensive benefit plan funded to the fullest extent possible by the employer, ((that provide comprehensive health care)) and a health savings account/high deductible health plan option as defined in section 1201 of the medicare prescription drug improvement and modernization act of 2003, as amended, for eligible state employees, officials, and their dependents, and (b) study all state-purchased health care, alternative health care delivery systems, and strategies for the procurement of health care services and make recommendations aimed at minimizing the financial burden which health care poses on the state, its employees, and its charges, while at the same time allowing the state to provide the most comprehensive health care options possible.

Sec. 2. RCW 41.05.065 and 2005 c 518 s 920 and 2005 c 195 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

1. The board shall study all matters connected with the provision of health care coverage, life insurance, liability insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, and disability income insurance or any of, or a combination of, the enumerated types of insurance for employees and their dependents on the best basis possible with relation both to the welfare of the employees and to the state. However, liability insurance shall not be made available to dependents.

2. The board shall develop employee benefit plans that include comprehensive health care benefits for all employees. In developing these plans, the board shall consider the following elements:
   (a) Methods of maximizing cost containment while ensuring access to quality health care;
   (b) Development of provider arrangements that encourage cost containment and ensure access to quality care, including but not limited to prepaid delivery systems and prospective payment methods;
   (c) Wellness incentives that focus on proven strategies, such as smoking cessation, injury and accident prevention, reduction of alcohol misuse, appropriate weight reduction, exercise, automobile and motorcycle safety, blood cholesterol reduction, and nutrition education;
   (d) Utilization review procedures including, but not limited to, a cost-efficient method for prior authorization of services, hospital inpatient length of stay review, requirements for use of outpatient surgeries and second opinions for surgeries, review of invoices or claims submitted by service providers, and performance audit of providers;
   (e) Effective coordination of benefits;
   (f) Minimum standards for insuring entities; and
   (g) Minimum scope and content of public employee benefit plans to be offered to enrollees participating in the employee health benefit plans. To maintain the comprehensive nature of employee health care benefits, employee eligibility criteria related to the number of hours worked and the benefits provided to employees shall be substantially equivalent to the state employees' health benefits plan and eligibility criteria in effect on January 1, 1993. Nothing in this subsection (2) shall prohibit changes or increases in employee point-of-service payments or employee premium payments for benefits or the administration of a high deductible health plan in conjunction with a health savings account.

3. The board shall design benefits and determine the terms and conditions of employee and retired employee participation and coverage, including establishment of eligibility criteria. The same terms and conditions of participation and coverage, including eligibility criteria, shall apply to state employees and to school district employees and educational service district employees.

4. The board may authorize premium contributions for an employee and the employee's dependents in a manner that encourages the use of cost-efficient managed health care systems. During the 2005-2007 fiscal biennium, the board may only authorize premium contributions for an employee and the employee's dependents that are the same, regardless of an employee's status as represented or nonrepresente by a collective bargaining unit under the personnel system reform act of 2002. The board shall require participating school district and educational service district employees to pay at least the same employee premiums by plan and family size as state employees pay.

5. The board shall develop a health savings account option for employees that conform to section 223, Part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the internal revenue code of 1986. The board shall comply with all applicable federal standards related to the establishment of health savings accounts.

6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the board shall develop a high deductible health plan to be offered in conjunction with a health savings account developed under subsection (3) of this section.

7. Employees shall choose participation in one of the health care benefit plans developed by the board and may be permitted to waive coverage under terms and conditions established by the board.

8. The board shall review plans proposed by insuring entities that desire to offer property insurance and/or accident and casualty insurance to state employees through payroll deduction. The board may approve any such plan for payroll deduction by insuring entities holding a valid certificate of authority in the state of Washington and which the board determines to be in the best interests of employees and the state. The board shall promulgate rules setting forth criteria by which it shall evaluate the plans.

Before January 1, 1998, the public employees' benefits board shall make available one or more fully insured long-term care insurance plans that comply with the requirements of chapter 48.84 RCW. Such programs shall be made available to eligible employees, retired employees, and retired school employees as well as eligible dependents which, for the purpose of this section, includes the parents of the employee or retiree and the parents of the spouse of the employee or retiree. Employees of local governments and employees of political subdivisions not otherwise enrolled in the public employees' benefits board sponsored medical programs may enroll under terms and conditions established by the administrator, if it does not jeopardize the financial viability of the public employees' benefits board's long-term care offering.

(a) Participation of eligible employees or retired employees and retired school employees in any long-term care insurance plan made available by the public employees' benefits board is voluntary and shall not be subject to binding arbitration under chapter 41.56 RCW. Participation is subject to reasonable underwriting guidelines and eligibility rules established by the public employees' benefits board and the health care authority.

(b) The employee, retired employee, and retired school
employee are solely responsible for the payment of the premium rates developed by the health care authority. The health care authority is authorized to charge a reasonable administrative fee in addition to the premium charged by the long-term care insurer, which shall include the health care authority's cost of administration, marketing, and consumer education materials prepared by the health care authority and the office of the insurance commissioner.

(c) To the extent administratively possible, the state shall establish an automatic payroll or pension deduction system for the payment of the long-term care insurance premiums.

(d) The public employees' benefits board and the health care authority shall establish a technical advisory committee to provide advice in the development of the benefit design and establishment of underwriting guidelines and eligibility rules. The committee shall also advise the board and authority on effective and cost-effective ways to market and distribute the long-term care product. The technical advisory committee shall be comprised, at a minimum, of representatives of the office of the insurance commissioner, providers of long-term care services, licensed insurance agents with expertise in long-term care insurance, employees, retired employees, retired school employees, and other interested parties determined to be appropriate by the board.

(e) The health care authority shall offer employees, retired employees, and retired school employees the option of purchasing long-term care insurance through licensed agents or brokers appointed by the long-term care insurer. The authority, in consultation with the public employees' benefits board, shall establish marketing procedures and may consider all premium components as a part of the contract negotiations with the long-term care insurer.

(f) In developing the long-term care insurance benefit designs, the public employees' benefits board shall include an alternative plan of care benefit, including adult day services, as approved by the office of the insurance commissioner.

(g) The health care authority, with the cooperation of the office of the insurance commissioner, shall develop a consumer education program for the eligible employees, retired employees, and retired school employees designed to provide education on the potential need for long-term care, methods of financing long-term care, and the availability of long-term care insurance products including the products offered by the board.

(h) By December 1998, the health care authority, in consultation with the public employees' benefits board, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature, including an analysis of the marketing and distribution of the long-term care insurance provided under this section."

Correct the title.

Representatives Condotta and Cody spoke in favor of adoption of the amendment.

The amendment was adopted. The bill was ordered engrossed.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, the second reading considered the third and the bill was placed on final passage.

Representatives Condotta and Cody spoke in favor of passage of the bill.

The Speaker stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed House Bill No. 1383.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed House Bill No. 1383 and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 87, Nays - 11, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.


ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1383, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

There being no objection, the House immediately reconsidered the vote on third reading by which ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1383 passed the House.

RECONSIDERATION

The Speaker stated the question before the House to be the final passage of Engrossed House Bill No. 1383 on reconsideration.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll on the final passage of Engrossed House Bill No. 1383 on reconsideration and the bill passed the House by the following vote: Yeas - 88, Nays - 10, Absent - 0, Excused - 0.

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1383 on reconsideration, having received the necessary constitutional majority, was declared passed.

There being no objection, HOUSE BILL NO. 3186 was removed from the Suspension Calendar, and the bill was placed on the Second Reading calendar.

There being no objection, the Rules Committee was relieved of the following bills which were placed on second reading:

- HOUSE BILL NO. 1523
- HOUSE BILL NO. 1815
- HOUSE BILL NO. 2334
- HOUSE BILL NO. 2348
- HOUSE BILL NO. 2349
- HOUSE BILL NO. 2352
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- HOUSE BILL NO. 2457
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- HOUSE BILL NO. 2640
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- HOUSE BILL NO. 3222
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