

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 1191

Ensuring equity in health coverage
(2021 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that [HB 1191](#) would likely increase access to health insurance for individuals at least 19 years of age who are income-eligible, regardless of immigration status, and that some eligible individuals may enroll in health insurance, which would likely increase access to and use of healthcare services, improve health outcomes, and decrease health inequities by immigration status.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Thai, Bateman, Ryu, Lovick, Kloba, Simmons, Gregerson, Valdez, Peterson, Santos, Fitzgibbon, Ramel, Goodman, Ortiz-Self, Macri, Slatter, Fey, Davis, Pollet, Callan, Harris-Talley, Frame, Hackney

Summary of Bill:

Full details about the provisions of this bill can be found in the bill text linked above. The Health Impact Review request was scoped to assess only provisions outlined in Section 2 of HB 1191, and only provisions related to Section 2 are included in this bill summary.

- Directs Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to extend Apple Health coverage by creating a new state-only funded plan to all individuals, regardless of immigration status, who are at least 19 years of age, have a countable income equal to or below 133% of the federal poverty level, are not incarcerated, and are not eligible for categorically needy medical assistance as defined in the Social Security Title XIX State Plan.
- Specifies that the amount, scope, and duration of healthcare services must be the same as that provided to individuals under categorically needy medical assistance.
- Requires HCA to provide a seamless transition in coverage for individuals aging out of children's health coverage, and to manage application and renewal processes to maximize enrollment of eligible individuals.
- Directs HCA to work with the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) to develop a transition plan to move individuals with incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level to this plan.
- Requires HCA and HBE, in collaboration with community organizations, to establish and maintain an education and outreach campaign to facilitate participation in this program as well as to appoint an advisory committee to assist in the development, implementation, and operation of a state-only funded Apple Health plan.
- Requires HCA and HBE to submit annual reports to the Legislature and Office of Financial Management regarding implementation of this program and outreach efforts.

For more information:
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WASHINGTON STATE 
BOARD OF HEALTH

 **HEALTH
EQUITY**
Governor's Interagency Council
on Health Disparities

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HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence for provisions related to Section 2 of HB 1191:

- **Very strong evidence** that HCA extending Apple Health coverage to individuals at least 19 years of age who are income-eligible, regardless of immigration status, would increase access to health insurance for these individuals.
- We made the **informed assumption** that increasing access to health insurance for individuals at least 19 years of age who are income-eligible, regardless of immigration status, would result in some eligible individuals enrolling in a state-funded Apple Health plan. This assumption is based on provisions of the bill and information from key informants.
- **Very strong evidence** that having health insurance would improve health outcomes.
- **Very strong evidence** that having health insurance would increase access to and use of healthcare services.
- **Very strong evidence** that increased access to and use of healthcare services would improve health outcomes.
- **Very strong evidence** that improved health outcomes would decrease health inequities by immigration status.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<https://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2021-03-HB1191.pdf>

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