

HB 2128-S.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Requires the department of social and health services to manage its outreach, application, and renewal procedures in order to qualify for enhanced federal funding.

Delays the availability of children's health insurance until January 1, 2010, for children in families with household income over three hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

Changes the name of the children's health program to the apple health for kids program.

VETO MESSAGE ON ESHB 2128

May 12, 2009

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have approved, except for Section 3, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2128 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to meeting the goal of all children in Washington having health care coverage by 2010."

Section 3 requires the Department of Social and Health Services to identify a staff position as the single point of contact and coordination for the Apple Health for Kids program. While I appreciate the intent of this section, I believe it inappropriate to direct in statute how an agency must staff a particular program. Especially in this difficult economic time, agencies must have the flexibility to allocate limited staff resources in the way which best suits all of their activities. Nonetheless, I will direct the Department to appoint someone to oversee this program.

For this reason, I have vetoed Section 3 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2128. With the exception of Section 3, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2128 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor