

1 Sub HB 71 (2026) HEALTH PLAN PROVIDER DIRECTORY AMENDMENTS (Eliason, Steve)

Anticipated Fiscal Impact: none

Of significance to PEHP, this bill would require:

- 1) PEHP to assist an enrollee in finding an out-of-network behavioral health provider if no in-network provider is available to see a patient within 7 days or 24 hours for emergencies, and then enter into a single case agreement with that provider to receive covered services as if the provider were in-network. This would create a significant disincentive for mental health providers to contract with PEHP, and could diminish the number of providers in network and the discounts to those providers.
- 2) PEHP to publish health care provider directories.
- 3) Audit and regularly update health care provider directories for accuracy regarding name, address, phone number, email addresses of providers, as well as whether the provider is accepting new patients.

This bill then requires PEHP to adjust its business practices to mitigate any financial impacts of compliance with these sections. As PEHP would have expected to hire two additional full-time employees to comply with the requirements of this bill, under the substitute bill PEHP will use its best efforts to meet the demands of this bill without additional employees and within its existing budget.