

By the Committee on Health Care Standards & Regulatory Reform and Representative Jones

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to community health purchasing  
3           alliances; amending s. 408.702, F.S.; providing  
4           immunity from liability for members of the  
5           board of directors of a community health  
6           purchasing alliance, and its employees and  
7           agents, in the performance of the board's  
8           duties; correcting a cross reference; amending  
9           s. 408.703, F.S.; providing that a small  
10          employer member of an alliance remains eligible  
11          for coverage for a specified period following  
12          an expansion of business; repealing s. 408.705,  
13          F.S., relating to the boards of directors of  
14          community health purchasing alliances;  
15          providing an effective date.

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17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19           Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (j) of  
20          subsection (6) of section 408.702, Florida Statutes, are  
21          amended to read:

22           408.702 Community health purchasing alliance;  
23          establishment.--

24           (1) There is ~~hereby~~ created a community health  
25          purchasing alliance in each of the 11 health service planning  
26          districts established under s. 408.032(5). Each alliance must  
27          be operated as a state-chartered, nonprofit private  
28          organization organized pursuant to chapter 617. There shall be  
29          no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any  
30          nature shall arise against, any member of the board of  
31          directors of a community health purchasing alliance, or its

1 employees or agents, for any action taken by the board in the  
2 performance of its powers and duties under ss. 408.70-408.706.

3 (6) Each community health purchasing alliance has the  
4 following powers, duties, and responsibilities:

5 (j) Ensuring that accountable health partnerships have  
6 grievance procedures to be used in resolving disputes between  
7 members and an accountable health partnership. A member may  
8 appeal to the alliance any grievance that is not resolved by  
9 the accountable health partnership. An accountable health  
10 partnership that is a health maintenance organization must  
11 follow the grievance procedures established in ss. 408.7056  
12 and 641.31(5) and 641.311.

13 Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 408.703,  
14 Florida Statutes, to read:

15 408.703 Small employer members of community health  
16 purchasing alliances; eligibility requirements.--

17 (6) Notwithstanding any other law, if a small employer  
18 member loses eligibility to purchase health care through a  
19 community health purchasing alliance solely because the  
20 business of the small employer member expands to more than 50  
21 eligible employees, the small employer member may, at its next  
22 renewal date, purchase coverage through the alliance for an  
23 additional year.

24 Section 3. Section 408.705, Florida Statutes, is  
25 repealed.

26 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
27 law.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Provides that the board of directors of a community health purchasing alliance, and its employees or agents, are not liable for actions taken in performing the duties and functions of the board. Provides that a small employer member of an alliance may continue to purchase health care through the alliance for 1 year if the business expands to more than 50 eligible employees. Repeals s. 408.705, F.S., which specifies the composition of a board of directors of a community health purchasing alliance and provides certain other requirements for the board.