

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Employee Health Care Access Act;  
 3           amending s. 627.6699, F.S.; revising application of the  
 4           act; providing construction; authorizing carriers to offer  
 5           coverage to certain employees without being subject to the  
 6           act under certain circumstances; providing requirements;  
 7           providing an effective date.

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

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 11           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
 12   627.6699, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13           627.6699 Employee Health Care Access Act.--

14           (4) APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE.--

15           (a)1. This section applies to a health benefit plan that  
 16   provides coverage to employees of a small employer in this  
 17   state, unless the coverage policy is marketed directly to the  
 18   individual employee, and the employer does not contribute  
 19   directly or indirectly to participate in the collection or  
 20   distribution of premiums or facilitate the administration of the  
 21   coverage policy in any manner. For the purposes of this  
 22   subparagraph, an employer shall not be deemed to be contributing  
 23   to the premiums or facilitating the administration of coverage  
 24   if the employer does not contribute towards the premium and  
 25   merely collects the premiums for such coverage from an  
 26   employee's wages or salary through payroll deduction and submits  
 27   payment for the premiums of one or more employees in a lump sum  
 28   to a carrier.

CODING: Words **stricken** are deletions; words **underlined** are additions.

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29           2. A carrier may offer coverage as described in this  
30 section to individual employees without being subject to this  
31 section if the employer has not had a group health benefit plan  
32 in place in the prior 3 months. An employer that offers a group  
33 health benefit plan may facilitate the purchase of coverage as  
34 described in this paragraph to employees that are ineligible for  
35 the group health benefit plan, provided the employer has not  
36 changed its eligibility requirements in the prior 3 months.

37           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.