

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to small business health care insurance
 3 assistance; providing legislative intent; establishing a
 4 pilot program to provide rebates to small businesses
 5 providing comprehensive major medical health insurance
 6 coverage for employees; requiring employer and employee
 7 participation in certain costs; specifying the amount of
 8 the rebate; providing for additional eligibility for
 9 certain businesses; providing for payment of the rebates
 10 from general revenue; providing for administration of the
 11 program by the Agency for Health Care Administration;
 12 requiring the agency to adopt rules; providing enforcement
 13 and audit authority for the agency; providing an effective
 14 date.

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

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 18 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to
 19 encourage small businesses to provide comprehensive major
 20 medical health insurance coverage to employees of the
 21 businesses. It is the intent of this act to establish a
 22 statewide pilot program that will allocate \$15 million from
 23 general revenue for such purposes.

24 (2) The Small Business Health Care Insurance Assistance
 25 Pilot Program is created as a statewide pilot program for a
 26 period of 2 years to provide a one-time rebate for small
 27 businesses that employ more than one but fewer than six
 28 employees and that provide full coverage of comprehensive major

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29 medical health insurance for such employees pursuant to s.
30 627.6699, Florida Statutes. The employer shall pay at least 50
31 percent but less than 100 percent of the cost of the coverage,
32 and the employees must share in the remainder of the cost of the
33 coverage.

34 (3) (a) The amount of the rebate shall be \$1,000 per each
35 employee as reported on the business' Florida unemployment
36 compensation tax form 6.

37 (b) A small business must apply through the Agency for
38 Health Care Administration.

39 (c) A business is eligible for the rebate under this
40 section if, at the time of applying for a rebate under the pilot
41 program, the business had provided and paid for such coverage
42 for 12 consecutive months but had not provided and paid for such
43 coverage for at least 6 months prior to such 12-month period.
44 The business may apply only once for the rebate.

45 (4) The pilot program shall be funded by general revenue
46 and shall be administered by the Agency for Health Care
47 Administration. The agency shall adopt any rules pursuant to ss.
48 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, necessary to administer
49 and ensure accountability of the pilot program and enforce
50 compliance with the requirements of the program. The agency may
51 conduct audits of any business applying for rebates under the
52 program to ensure compliance with program requirements.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.