

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Health Care Regulation Committee recommends the following:

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3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

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

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to
23 encourage small businesses to provide comprehensive major

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24 medical health insurance coverage to employees of the
25 businesses. It is the intent of this act to establish a
26 statewide pilot program that will allocate \$15 million from
27 general revenue for such purposes.

28 (2) The Small Business Health Care Insurance Assistance
29 Pilot Program is created as a statewide pilot program for a
30 period of 2 years to provide a one-time rebate for small
31 businesses that employ more than one but fewer than six
32 employees and that provide full coverage of comprehensive major
33 medical health insurance for such employees pursuant to s.
34 627.6699, Florida Statutes. The employer shall pay at least 50
35 percent but less than 100 percent of the cost of the coverage,
36 and the employees must share in the remainder of the cost of the
37 coverage.

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

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

43 (c) A business is eligible for the rebate under this
44 section if, at the time of applying for a rebate under the pilot
45 program, the business had provided and paid for such coverage
46 for 12 consecutive months but had not provided and paid for such
47 coverage for at least 6 months prior to such 12-month period.
48 The business may receive the rebate only one time.

49 (4) The pilot program shall be funded by general revenue
50 and shall be administered by the Agency for Health Care
51 Administration. The agency shall adopt any rules pursuant to ss.

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52 | 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, necessary to administer
53 | and ensure accountability of the pilot program and enforce
54 | compliance with the requirements of the program. The agency may
55 | conduct audits of any business applying for rebates under the
56 | program to ensure compliance with program requirements.

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