

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Health Care Appropriations Committee recommends the
2 following:

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4 **Council/Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

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

20
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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23 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to
24 encourage small businesses to provide comprehensive major
25 medical health insurance coverage to employees of the
26 businesses.

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

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

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

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

48 (d) The agency shall only provide rebates to eligible
49 businesses if a specific appropriation is made in the General

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50 Appropriations Act for the purpose of providing rebates under
51 the pilot program.

52 (4) The pilot program shall be administered by the Agency
53 for Health Care Administration. The agency shall adopt any rules
54 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes,
55 necessary to administer and ensure accountability of the pilot
56 program and enforce compliance with the requirements of the
57 program. The agency may conduct audits of any business applying
58 for rebates under the program to ensure compliance with program
59 requirements.

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