

By Senator Fasano

11-1324A-06

See HB 1265

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to small business health care

3           insurance assistance; providing legislative

4           intent; establishing a pilot program to provide

5           rebates to small businesses providing

6           comprehensive major medical health insurance

7           coverage for employees; requiring employer and

8           employee participation in certain costs;

9           specifying the amount of the rebate; providing

10          for additional eligibility for certain

11          businesses; providing for payment of the

12          rebates from general revenue; providing for

13          administration of the program by the Agency for

14          Health Care Administration; requiring the

15          agency to adopt rules; providing enforcement

16          and audit authority for the agency; providing

17          an effective date.

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

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21           Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to

22 encourage small businesses to provide comprehensive major

23 medical health insurance coverage to employees of the

24 businesses. It is the intent of this act to establish a

25 statewide pilot program that will allocate \$15 million from

26 general revenue for such purposes.

27           (2) The Small Business Health Care Insurance

28 Assistance Pilot Program is created as a statewide pilot

29 program for a period of 2 years to provide a one-time rebate

30 for small businesses that employ more than one but fewer than

31 six employees and that provide full coverage of comprehensive

1 major medical health insurance for such employees pursuant to  
2 s. 627.6699, Florida Statutes. The employer shall pay at least  
3 50 percent but less than 100 percent of the cost of the  
4 coverage, and the employees must share in the remainder of the  
5 cost of the coverage.

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

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

11 (c) A business is eligible for the rebate under this  
12 section if, at the time of applying for a rebate under the  
13 pilot program, the business had provided and paid for such  
14 coverage for 12 consecutive months but had not provided and  
15 paid for such coverage for at least 6 months prior to such  
16 12-month period. The business may apply only once for the  
17 rebate.

18 (4) The pilot program shall be funded by general  
19 revenue and shall be administered by the Agency for Health  
20 Care Administration. The agency shall adopt any rules pursuant  
21 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, necessary to  
22 administer and ensure accountability of the pilot program and  
23 enforce compliance with the requirements of the program. The  
24 agency may conduct audits of any business applying for rebates  
25 under the program to ensure compliance with program  
26 requirements.

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