

By the Committee on Health Care; and Senator Fasano

587-2452-06

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; limiting authorization to provide  
12          rebates under the program only pursuant to  
13          specific appropriation; providing for  
14          administration of the program by the Agency for  
15          Health Care Administration; requiring the  
16          agency to adopt rules; providing enforcement  
17          and audit authority for the agency; providing  
18          an effective date.

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

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22            Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to  
23 encourage small businesses to provide comprehensive major  
24 medical health insurance coverage to employees of the  
25 businesses.

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

1 s. 627.6699, Florida Statutes. The employer shall pay at least  
2 50 percent but less than 100 percent of the cost of the  
3 coverage, and the employees must share in the remainder of the  
4 cost of the coverage.

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

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

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

17 (d) The agency shall only provide rebates to eligible  
18 businesses if a specific appropriation is made in the General  
19 Appropriations Act for the purpose of providing rebates under  
20 the pilot program.

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

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 2428

The Committee Substitute deletes the intent that this act establish a statewide pilot program that will allocate \$15 million from general revenue for the purpose of providing a one-time rebate to small businesses that provide health care coverage; clarifies that a business may receive the rebate only one time; and specifies that the Agency for Health Care Administration can only provide rebates to eligible businesses if a specific appropriation is made in the General Appropriations Act for the purpose of providing rebates under the pilot program.