

By Senator Fasano

11-00234-08

2008190\_\_

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

15  
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to  
19 encourage small businesses to provide comprehensive major medical  
20 health insurance coverage to employees of the businesses.

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

11-00234-08

2008190\_\_

30 coverage.

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

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

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

42 (d) The agency shall only provide rebates to eligible  
43 businesses if a specific appropriation is made in the General  
44 Appropriations Act for the purpose of providing rebates under the  
45 pilot program.

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

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.