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2008

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 in certain counties to provide rebates to
5 small businesses providing comprehensive major medical
6 health insurance coverage for employees; requiring
7 employer and employee participation in certain costs;
8 specifying the amount of the rebate; providing for
9 additional eligibility for certain businesses; limiting
10 authorization to provide rebates under the program
11 pursuant to voluntary provision of funds by local
12 governmental entities and matching state funds; providing
13 for administration of the program by the Agency for Health
14 Care Administration; requiring the agency to adopt rules;
15 providing enforcement and audit authority for the agency;
16 providing for funding of the program from local
17 governmental agencies within the counties and matching
18 funds from the state; providing 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 Assistance
27 Pilot Program is created in Pasco County and Volusia County as a
28 pilot program for a period of 2 years to provide a one-time

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29 rebate for small businesses that employ more than one but fewer
30 than six employees and that provide full coverage of
31 comprehensive major medical health insurance for such employees
32 pursuant to s. 627.6699, Florida Statutes. The employer shall
33 pay at least 50 percent but less than 100 percent of the cost of
34 the coverage, and the employees must share in the remainder of
35 the cost of the coverage.

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

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

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

47 (d) Pursuant to subsection (5), the agency shall only
48 provide rebates to eligible businesses if funding is voluntarily
49 provided by local governmental entities and matching funds are
50 provided by the state.

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

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57 for rebates under the program to ensure compliance with program
58 requirements.

59 (5) Any funding for the pilot program shall be voluntarily
60 provided by local governmental entities within Pasco County and
61 Volusia County. The state shall provide matching funds for the
62 program equal to the aggregate amounts provided by local
63 governmental entities within each county.

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