

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes a process for evaluation of proposed health coverage mandates.

Section

1 Evaluation of proposed health coverage mandates.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines commissioner as the commissioner of commerce. Defines health plan as standard health coverage issued by any type of health plan company regulated by the state, including Medicare supplement coverage and "blanket" coverage often offered to college students through their colleges. Defines a mandated health benefit proposal as a proposal that would require by law that a health plan cover a certain condition, type of treatment, or type of provider.

Subd. 2. Evaluation process and content. Requires the commissioner of commerce, in consultation with the commissioners of health and employee relations, to evaluate mandate proposals, when requested to do so, and to provide the information and analysis to the legislature. Specifies the content and scope of the evaluations and the process for completing them. Permits the commissioner to consider actuarial analyses provided by health insurers in determining the cost of a proposed mandate.

Subd. 3. Requests for evaluation. Provides that when a health mandate proposal arises in the legislature, a chair of any standing committee that would have jurisdiction over the proposal may request an evaluation under this section. Specifies a process for prioritizing requests for evaluation. Limits the number of evaluations to three per fiscal

Section

year. The bill does not prevent the legislature from taking action on the proposal without obtaining an evaluation.

Subd. 4. Sources of funding. Permits the commissioner to seek and accept additional sources of funding to cover the costs of evaluations.

Subd. 5. Report to the legislature. Requires that the commissioner submit a written report to the legislature in response to a request for evaluation, within six months after receiving the request.

2 **Effective date.** Makes the bill effective January 1, 2004.