

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Universal Health Care System

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Overview

This bill presents findings related to universal coverage, and requires the commissioner of health to establish a working group to design a universal health care system and submit proposed legislation to the legislature that would establish a universal health care system to take effect in 2010.

Section

- 1 **Legislative findings.** States legislative findings related to the lack of universal and affordable care and the advantages of a well-designed universal care system. Specifies criteria for a universal system.
- 2 **Universal health care system.** Adds § 144.7055.

Subd. 1. Commissioner's working group. (a) Requires the commissioner of health to establish a working group to design a universal health care system. Requires the commissioner to submit legislation to the legislature by January 31, 2008, to establish a universal system that would take effect January 2010. Requires the system to meet the requirements in subdivision 2.

(b) Requires the working group to include medical providers, patients, and representatives of employers and employees.

(c) Specifies requirements for governance and states that the task force expires January 31, 2008.

Subd. 2. Requirements for universal health care system. Requires the

Section

commissioner's proposal to be designed in a manner that:

- (1) ensures all Minnesotans receive high quality care, regardless of income;
- (2) allows patients to choose their own providers;
- (3) does not restrict, deny, or reduce the quality of care to hold down costs, but reduces costs through prevention, efficiency, and the elimination of bureaucracy;
- (4) provides comprehensive benefits, including all coverage required by law and other specified services;
- (5) is funded through premiums and other payments based upon ability to pay;
- (6) focuses on preventive care and early intervention;
- (7) ensures an adequate number of health care professionals and facilities;
- (8) continues promoting the state's leadership in medical education, training, research, and technology; and
- (9) provides adequate and timely payments to providers.

3 **Effective date.** States that section 2 is effective the day following final enactment.