

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2562

**DATE:** April 13, 2010

**Version:** Second engrossment

**Authors:** Thissen

**Subject:** COBRA Premium State Subsidy

**Analyst:** Randall Chun, (651) 296-8639

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### Overview

This bill extends the expiration date for the state premium subsidy program for COBRA continuation coverage, allows FY 2010 funding for the program to be used in FY 2011, reduces a health care access fund appropriation for FY 2011, and provides funding for administrative costs. The state program pays a subsidy equal to 35 percent of the premiums for continuation coverage, for an individual and the individual's qualified beneficiaries who: (1) are eligible for the federal 65 percent continuation premium subsidy; (2) elect COBRA continuation coverage; and (3) are eligible for MA, GAMC, or MinnesotaCare without application of the four-month insurance barrier.

### Section

- 1 **Expiration.** Amends Laws 2009, chapter 79, article 5, section 78, subdivision 5. Extends the expiration date for the state premium subsidy program for COBRA continuation coverage from December 31, 2010, to June 30, 2011, and extends the exemption from the four-month uninsured requirement to December 31, 2011, to reflect the extension of the federal premium subsidy program for continuation coverage.
- 2 **Other health care grants.** Amends Laws 2009, chapter 79, article 13, section 3, subdivision 6. Reduces a FY 2011 appropriation to the health care access fund from \$7.080 million to \$5.230 million.
- 3 **COBRA carry forward.** Provides that unexpended funds appropriated in FY 2010 for COBRA grants do not cancel and are available to the commissioner of human services for FY 2011 COBRA expenditures. Allows the commissioner to use up to \$67,000 of the FY 2011 appropriation for COBRA grants for administrative costs.