HOUSE RESEARCH =

Bill Summary =

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Subject: MinnesotaCare for Unemployed Individuals

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Overview

This bill provides MinnesotaCare eligibility for individuals receiving unemployment benefits and household members, for up to six-months, and exempts these individuals from MinnesotaCare premiums and eligibility requirements. This eligibility provision expires July 1, 2011.

Section

- **Temporary eligibility for unemployed individuals.** Amends § 256L.07, by adding subd. 8.
 - (a) Provides that individuals receiving unemployment benefits who meet the definition of "unemployed," and household members, are eligible for MinnesotaCare and exempt from other MinnesotaCare eligibility criteria. Requires the commissioner of employment and economic development to provide written notice of this change to individuals receiving unemployment benefits. Exempts individuals eligible under this subdivision from the \$10,000 annual inpatient hospital limit (this limit applies to all adults without children and to parents with higher incomes). States that coverage is to be provided under fee-for-service using state-only funds. Requires the commissioner of human services to seek federal approval for matching funds.
 - (b) Exempts individuals and household members from MinnesotaCare premiums, but states that MinnesotaCare cost-sharing requirements apply.
 - (c) Requires individuals requesting benefits under this subdivision to provide to the commissioner of employment and economic development information necessary for the commissioner of human services to provide MinnesotaCare benefits, and requires the commissioner of employment and economic development to transfer this information to the commissioner of human services.
 - (d) States that individuals and household members are eligible under this subdivision until they are no longer eligible for, or exhaust, unemployment benefits, subject to a six-month

maximum. Allows individuals and household members who are no longer eligible under this subdivision to reapply for MinnesotaCare, subject to all eligibility, premium, and other program requirements.

(e) States that this subdivision expires July 1, 2011.

Provides a July 1, 2009 effective date.

Appropriation. Appropriates money from the health care access fund to the commissioners of human services and employment and economic development, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, to implement this bill.