

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 3070

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/10/2022	4971	Introduction and first reading Referred to Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to health insurance; requiring the commissioner of commerce to evaluate

1.3geographic rating areas; requiring reports; appropriating money.

1.4BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5Section 1. STUDY AND REPORT ON DISPARITIES BETWEEN GEOGRAPHIC

1.6RATING AREAS IN INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP MARKET HEALTH

1.7INSURANCE RATES.

1.8Subdivision 1. Study and recommendations. (a) The commissioner of commerce must

1.9study disparities between Minnesota's nine geographic rating areas in individual and small

1.10group market health insurance rates, and recommend ways to reduce or eliminate rate

1.11disparities between the geographic rating areas and provide stability for the individual and

1.12small group health insurance markets in Minnesota. The commissioner of commerce must:

1.13(1) identify the factors that cause higher individual and small group market health

1.14insurance rates in certain geographic rating areas, and determine the extent to which each

1.15identified factor contributes to the higher rates;

1.16(2) identify the impact of referral centers on individual and small group market health

1.17insurance rates in southeastern Minnesota, and identify ways to reduce the rate disparity

1.18between southeastern Minnesota and the metropolitan area, taking into consideration the

1.19patterns of referral center usage by patients in those regions;

1.20(3) determine the extent to which individuals and small employers located in a geographic

1.21rating area with higher health insurance rates than surrounding geographic rating areas have

1.22obtained health insurance in a lower-cost geographic rating area, identify the strategies that

individuals and small employers use to obtain health insurance in a lower-cost geographic rating area, and measure the effects of this practice on the rates of the individuals and small employers remaining in the geographic rating area with higher health insurance rates; and

(4) develop proposals to redraw the boundaries of Minnesota's geographic rating areas and calculate the effect each proposal would have on rates in each of the proposed rating areas. The commissioner of commerce must examine at least three options for redrawing the boundaries of Minnesota's geographic rating areas, at least one of which must reduce the number of geographic rating areas. All options for redrawing Minnesota's geographic rating areas considered by the commissioner of commerce must be designed:

(i) to reduce or eliminate rate disparities between geographic rating areas and providing for stability of the individual and small group health insurance markets in Minnesota;

(ii) after considering the composition of existing provider networks and referral patterns in regions of Minnesota; and

(iii) in compliance with the requirements for geographic rating areas in Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, section 147.102(b), and other applicable federal law and guidance.

(b) Health carriers that cover Minnesota residents, health systems that provide care to Minnesota residents, and the commissioner of health must cooperate with any requests for information from the commissioner of commerce that the commissioner of commerce determines is necessary to conduct the study.

(c) The commissioner of commerce may recommend one or more proposals for redrawing Minnesota's geographic rating areas if the commissioner of commerce determines that the proposal would reduce or eliminate individual and small group market health insurance rate disparities between the geographic rating areas and provide stability for the individual and small group health insurance markets in Minnesota.

Subd. 2. **Contract.** The commissioner of commerce may contract with another entity for technical assistance in conducting the study and developing recommendations according to subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. **Report.** The commissioner of commerce shall complete the study and recommendations by January 1, 2022, and submit a report on the study and recommendations by that date to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health care and health insurance.

3.1 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; STUDY AND REPORT ON DISPARITIES BETWEEN**
3.2 **GEOGRAPHIC RATING AREAS IN INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP MARKET**
3.3 **HEALTH INSURANCE RATES.**

3.4 \$..... in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of
3.5 commerce to study and report on disparities between geographic rating areas in individual
3.6 and small group market health insurance rates under section 1.