

A bill for an act
relating to insurance; creating a statewide health insurance pool for school district
employees; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections
62E.02, subdivision 23; 62E.10, subdivision 1; 62E.11, subdivision 5; 297L.05,
subdivision 5; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62A.

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

Section 1. **[62A.662] SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INSURANCE PLAN.**

Subdivision 1. Definitions. For purposes of this section:

(1) "eligible employee" means a person who is insurance eligible under a collective
bargaining agreement or under the personnel policy of an eligible employer; and

(2) "eligible employer" means a school district as defined in section 120A.05; a
service cooperative as defined in section 123A.21; an intermediate district as defined
in section 136D.01; a cooperative center for vocational education as defined in section
123A.22; a regional management information center as defined in section 123A.23; an
education unit organized under section 471.59; or a charter school organized under section
124D.10.

Subd. 2. Creation of board. (a) The Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board
is created as a public corporation subject to the provisions of chapter 317A, except as
otherwise provided in this section. As provided in section 15.082, the state is not liable
for obligations of this public corporation.

(b) The board shall create and administer the Minnesota school employee insurance
pool as described in this section.

(c) Insurance plans and offerings must be effective July 1, 2009.

(d) If the board does not offer coverage by December 15, 2010, the board expires
and this section expires on that date.

Subd. 3. **Board of directors.** (a) The School Employee Insurance Board consists of:
(1) seven members representing exclusive representatives of eligible employees,
appointed by exclusive representatives, as provided in paragraph (b); and

(2) seven members representing eligible employers, appointed by the Minnesota
School Boards Association.

(b) The seven members of the board who represent statewide affiliates of exclusive
representatives of eligible employees are appointed as follows: four members appointed
by Education Minnesota and one member each appointed by the Service Employees
International Union, the Minnesota School Employees Association, and American
Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

(c) Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments no later than August
1, 2007, by filing a notice of the appointment with the commissioner of commerce.
Notices of subsequent appointments must be filed with the board. An entity entitled to
appoint a board member may replace the board member at any time.

(d) Board members are eligible for compensation and expense reimbursement under
section 15.0575, subdivision 3.

(e) The board must arrange for one or more methods of dispute resolution so as
to minimize the possibility of deadlocks.

(f) The board shall establish governance requirements, which may include staggered
terms, term limits, quorum, a plan of operation, and audit provisions.

Subd. 4. **Design and nature of plan.** (a) Health coverage offered through the
Minnesota school employee insurance pool shall be made available by the board to all
eligible employees of eligible employers, as defined in subdivision 1.

(b) If an eligible employer provides health coverage or money to purchase health
coverage to eligible employees, the coverage must be provided or purchased only through
the health plans offered by the board.

(c) Nothing in this section affects the right of each eligible employer to determine,
through collective bargaining under the public employer labor relations act:

(1) the employer's eligibility requirements regarding the terms and conditions under
which employees, dependents, retirees, and other persons are eligible for health coverage
from the employer;

(2) how much of the premium charged for the insurance will be paid by the employer
and how much will be paid by the eligible person; and

(3) which health plan or plans offered by the board will be made available by the
eligible employer.

3.1 (d) The board must initially offer at least six health plans. One plan must provide
3.2 coverage without a deductible and without other enrollee cost-sharing other than
3.3 reasonable co-payments for nonpreventive care. One plan must be a high-deductible
3.4 health plan that qualifies under federal law for use with a health savings account. The
3.5 other four plans must have levels of enrollee cost-sharing that are between the two plans
3.6 just described. The board may establish more than one tier of premium rates for any
3.7 specific plan. Plans and premium rates may vary across geographic regions established by
3.8 the board. The health plans must comply with chapters 62A, 62J, 62M, and 62Q, and must
3.9 provide the optimal combination of coverage, cost, choice, and stability in the judgment of
3.10 the board. All health plans offered must be approved by the commissioner of commerce.
3.11 The board shall investigate the feasibility of offering coverage through more than one
3.12 health plan company or other network of health care providers.

3.13 (e) The board must include claims reserves, stabilization reserves, reinsurance,
3.14 and other features that, in the judgment of the board, will result in long-term stability
3.15 and solvency of the health plans offered.

3.16 (f) The board may determine whether the health plans should be fully insured
3.17 through a health carrier licensed in this state, self-insured, or a combination of those
3.18 two alternatives.

3.19 (g) The health plans must include disease management and consumer education,
3.20 including wellness programs and measures encouraging the wise use of health coverage,
3.21 to the extent determined to be appropriate by the board.

3.22 (h) Upon request of the board, health plans that are providing or have provided
3.23 coverage to employees of eligible employers within two years before the effective date of
3.24 this section, shall provide to the board at no charge nonidentifiable aggregate claims data
3.25 for that coverage. The information must include data relating to employee group benefit
3.26 sets, demographics, and claims experience. Notwithstanding section 13.203, Minnesota
3.27 service cooperatives must also comply with this paragraph.

3.28 (i) Effective July 1, 2009, a contract entered into between an eligible employer and
3.29 an eligible employee or the exclusive representative of an eligible employee may not
3.30 contain provisions that establish cash payment in lieu of health insurance to an eligible
3.31 employee if the employee is not receiving the payment on or before June 30, 2009.
3.32 Nothing in this section prevents an eligible employee who otherwise qualifies for payment
3.33 of cash in lieu of insurance on June 30, 2009, from continuing to receive this payment.

3.34 (j) All premiums paid for health coverage provided by the board must be used by the
3.35 board solely for the cost of the operation of the board and the benefit of eligible employees
3.36 and eligible employers in connection with the health coverage offered by the board.

4.1 Subd. 5. **MCHA membership and assessments.** The board is a contributing
4.2 member of the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association and must pay assessments
4.3 made by the association on its premium revenues, as provided in section 62E.11,
4.4 subdivision 5, paragraph (b).

4.5 Subd. 6. **Report.** The board shall report to the legislature by January 15, 2009, on a
4.6 final design for the pool that complies with subdivision 4 and on governance requirements
4.7 for the board, which may include staggered terms, term limits, quorum, and a plan of
4.8 operation and audit provisions. The report must include any legislative changes necessary
4.9 to ensure conformance with chapters 62A, 62J, 62M, and 62Q.

4.10 Subd. 7. **Progress dependent upon funding.** The board shall carry out its
4.11 obligations to the extent permitted by financial and other resources available to the board
4.12 for that purpose.

4.13 Subd. 8. **Periodic evaluation.** (a) Beginning January 15, 2011, and for the next two
4.14 years, the board must submit an annual report to the commissioner of commerce and the
4.15 legislature, in compliance with sections 3.195 and 3.197, summarizing and evaluating the
4.16 performance of the pool during the previous year of operation.

4.17 (b) Beginning in 2013 and in each odd-numbered year thereafter, the board must
4.18 submit to the legislature a biennial report summarizing and evaluating the performance of
4.19 the pool during the preceding two fiscal years.

4.20 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 62E.02, subdivision 23, is amended to read:

4.21 Subd. 23. **Contributing member.** "Contributing member" means those companies
4.22 regulated under chapter 62A and offering, selling, issuing, or renewing policies or
4.23 contracts of accident and health insurance; health maintenance organizations regulated
4.24 under chapter 62D; nonprofit health service plan corporations regulated under chapter
4.25 62C; community integrated service networks regulated under chapter 62N; fraternal
4.26 benefit societies regulated under chapter 64B; the Minnesota employees insurance
4.27 program established in section 43A.317, effective July 1, 1993; ~~and~~ joint self-insurance
4.28 plans regulated under chapter 62H; and the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board
4.29 created under section 62A.662. For the purposes of determining liability of contributing
4.30 members pursuant to section 62E.11 payments received from or on behalf of Minnesota
4.31 residents for coverage by a health maintenance organization ~~or a~~ community integrated
4.32 service network, or the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board shall be considered
4.33 to be accident and health insurance premiums.

4.34 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 62E.10, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Creation; tax exemption.** There is established a Comprehensive Health Association to promote the public health and welfare of the state of Minnesota with membership consisting of all insurers; self-insurers; fraternal; joint self-insurance plans regulated under chapter 62H; the Minnesota employees insurance program established in section 43A.317, effective July 1, 1993; the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board created under section 62A.662; health maintenance organizations; and community integrated service networks licensed or authorized to do business in this state. The Comprehensive Health Association is exempt from the taxes imposed under chapter 297I and any other laws of this state and all property owned by the association is exempt from taxation.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 62E.11, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Allocation of losses.** (a) Each contributing member of the association shall share the losses due to claims expenses of the comprehensive health insurance plan for plans issued or approved for issuance by the association, and shall share in the operating and administrative expenses incurred or estimated to be incurred by the association incident to the conduct of its affairs. Claims expenses of the state plan which exceed the premium payments allocated to the payment of benefits shall be the liability of the contributing members. Contributing members shall share in the claims expense of the state plan and operating and administrative expenses of the association in an amount equal to the ratio of the contributing member's total accident and health insurance premium, received from or on behalf of Minnesota residents as divided by the total accident and health insurance premium, received by all contributing members from or on behalf of Minnesota residents, as determined by the commissioner. Payments made by the state to a contributing member for medical assistance, MinnesotaCare, or general assistance medical care services according to chapters 256, 256B, and 256D shall be excluded when determining a contributing member's total premium.

(b) In making the allocation of losses provided in paragraph (a), the association's assessment against the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board must equal the product of: (1) the percentage of premiums assessed against other association members; (2) .3885; and (3) premiums received by the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board. For purposes of this calculation, premiums of the board used must be net of rate credits and retroactive rate refunds on the same basis as the premiums of other association members.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 297I.05, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Health maintenance organizations, nonprofit health service plan corporations, ~~and~~ community integrated service networks, and the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board.** (a) A tax is imposed on health maintenance organizations, community integrated service networks, and nonprofit health care service plan corporations. The rate of tax is equal to one percent of gross premiums less return premiums on all direct business received by the organization, network, or corporation or its agents in Minnesota, in cash or otherwise, in the calendar year.

(b) A tax is imposed on the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board under section 62A.662. The rate of tax is equal to .36 percent of gross premiums less return premiums received in the calendar year.

(c) The commissioner shall deposit all revenues, including penalties and interest, collected under this chapter from health maintenance organizations, community integrated service networks, ~~and~~ nonprofit health service plan corporations, and the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board in the health care access fund. Refunds of overpayments of tax imposed by this subdivision must be paid from the health care access fund. There is annually appropriated from the health care access fund to the commissioner the amount necessary to make any refunds of the tax imposed under this subdivision.

Sec. 6. **APPROPRIATION.**

\$4,000,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2008 from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce as a loan for start-up costs to the Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board. The Minnesota School Employee Insurance Board must repay the loan to the general fund in ten equal installments paid at the end of each fiscal year, beginning with the 2010 fiscal year.

Sec. 7. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This act is effective July 1, 2007, except that sections 4 and 5 are effective July 1, 2009.