

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill provides funding to a joint labor-management committee for a study and development of a plan for a new health insurance pool for school district employees.

Section

1 **Study; Feasibility of school employee health insurance plan.**

Subd. 1. Appropriation. Appropriates \$200,000 from the tobacco endowment to the commissioner of commerce to be disbursed to the labor-management committee for purposes of that committee's study and implementation plan. Makes the appropriation available immediately and until December 31, 2003.

Subd. 2. Labor-management committee. Creates a committee of five labor and five management representatives. The labor positions are determined based upon an allocation among unions representing public school employees. The management representatives are appointed by the Minnesota School Boards Association. Permits the committee to contract for services with a state agency or any other entity.

Defines "eligible employee" as an insurance-eligible employee of an eligible employer, excluding persons whose inclusion would disqualify the plan for treatment as a "government plan" under the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). [Government plans are exempted from federal regulation under ERISA.]

Defines "eligible employer" as a school district or a related entity specified in the definition.

Subd. 3. Description of study. Requires the labor-management committee created in subdivision 2 to study the feasibility and desirability of a school employee health insurance plan. Specifies the issues that the study must address. Requires that the study include development of a plan, based upon the results of the study. Requires a preliminary report by

December 31, 2002, and a final report by December 31, 2003.

2 **Effective date.** Makes section 1 effective immediately.