



SPONSOR: Rep. Schroeder;
Reps. Boulden, Price, Thornburg

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

141st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 82

ESTABLISHING A SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH INSURANCE TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MAKING AVAILABLE AN AFFORDABLE, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH
CARE PLAN FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, THEIR EMPLOYEES AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED.

- 1 WHEREAS, the engine of growth in our economy is small business; and
- 2 WHEREAS, an increasing number of Delaware small businesses have dropped or diluted their health insurance
- 3 coverage; and
- 4 WHEREAS, even successful small business owners are abandoning their enterprises for salaried positions that
- 5 offer health coverage; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a number of Delaware Chambers of Commerce have defined the lack of health insurance coverage
- 7 as the major business problem threatening the very viability of their member firms; and
- 8 WHEREAS, uncontrollable increases in health care premiums will doubtless lead to an increase in small
- 9 business failures and bankruptcies; and
- 10 WHEREAS, this decline in coverage due to rapidly escalating rises in premiums for small business has been
- 11 steadily worsening for over a decade; and
- 12 WHEREAS, initiatives within various communities have not provided any relief.
- 13 NOW, THEREFORE:
- 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 141st General Assembly of the State of Delaware that
- 15 there is hereby established a small business health insurance task force to study and make findings and recommendations
- 16 regarding making available an affordable, comprehensive health care plan for small businesses, their employees and the
- 17 self-employed, subject to the following:
- 18 1. This health care plan should cover physician and hospital services as well as prescription drugs and
- 19 medically necessary equipment;

20 2. Dental and mental health coverage should be considered for inclusion in the basic plan;

21 3. While State agencies may partake in establishing and organizing the plan, once the plan is fully

22 operational, it should not be subsidized by public funds.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be composed of the following 11 members:

24 1. Cabinet Secretary of Health and Social Services or designee;

25 2. Two (2) members of the House of Representatives, one each appointed by the Speaker of the House

26 and the Minority Leader of the House;

27 3. President of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce or designee;

28 4. The President of each of New Castle, Kent and Sussex County Chambers of Commerce;

29 5. The Insurance Commissioner or designee; and

30 6. Three (3) members of the public, 1 from each county, each appointed by the Governor.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Task Force be the Cabinet Secretary of Health and

32 Social Services or their designee on the Task Force.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall issue its written report to the Governor and the Speaker

34 of the House by March 31, 2003.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Task Force be responsible for guiding the

36 administration of the Task Force by, at a minimum:

37 1. Setting the date, time and place for the initial, organizational meeting;

38 2. Supervising the preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas, minutes, correspondence

39 and reports of the Task Force; and

40 3. Ensuring that the final report of the Task Force is submitted to the Speaker of the House with a copy

41 to the Governor.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations developed should call for having the Small Business

43 Health Insurance Program operational within eighteen (18) months following passage of the legislative and executive

44 approvals and provisions required for implementing the recommendations.

SYNOPSIS

This resolution establishes the Small Business Health Insurance Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding making available an affordable, comprehensive health care plan for small businesses, their employees and the self-employed.