



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2004

File No. 242

Senate Bill No. 432

Senate, March 24, 2004

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. PRAGUE of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT STUDYING EMPLOYERS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study the feasibility of establishing an employer-funded uniform
3 state-wide health insurance plan for persons employed in this state
4 whose employers do not procure for their employees a group
5 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans. Such
6 study shall include, but shall not be limited to, an examination of: (1)
7 The level of benefits that should be available to employees under such
8 a plan or plans; (2) costs associated with establishing and maintaining
9 such a plan or plans; (3) the amount of employer contributions
10 necessary to fund such a plan or plans; and (4) whether and to what
11 extent employers who provide group hospitalization and medical and
12 surgical insurance coverage to their employees should be exempt from
13 contributing to such a plan or plans.

- 14 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 15 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 16 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives;
- 19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 20 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
21 Representatives;
- 22 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 23 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
24 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
25 relating to labor and public employees and insurance, or their
26 designees;
- 27 (8) The Labor Commissioner and the Insurance Commissioner, or
28 their designees. [;]
- 29 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
30 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
31 of the General Assembly.
- 32 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
33 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
34 filled by the appointing authority.
- 35 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
36 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
37 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
38 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, to be held no later
39 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- 40 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the

41 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and
42 public employees shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

43 (g) Not later than February 8, 2006, the task force shall submit a
44 report on its findings, together with its recommendations, if any, for
45 appropriate legislation, to the joint standing committees of the General
46 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public
47 employees and insurance, in accordance with the provisions of section
48 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
49 that it submits such report or February 8, 2006, whichever is earlier.

50 (h) For purposes of this section, "employer" means a person engaged
51 in business who has fifty or more employees, excluding the state and
52 its political subdivisions, and "employee" means any person engaged
53 in service to an employer in a business of the employer.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

LAB *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Insurance Dept.	IF - None	None	None
Labor Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund; IF=Insurance Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a task force to study the feasibility of establishing an employer-funded uniform state-wide health insurance plan for persons employed in this state whose employers do not procure a group hospitalization and medical and insurance plan for their employees, and requires that the task force submit their findings by February 8, 2006. The bill appoints the chairs and ranking members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee to the task force, which may result in minimal costs to Legislative Management for legislator mileage reimbursement. To the extent that other appointments are legislators, minimal costs for legislator mileage reimbursement may result to Legislative Management. Additionally, the commissioners of the departments of Labor and Insurance, or their designees, are appointed to the task force, which results in no fiscal impact to either agency. The Labor and Public Employees Committee staff are required to serve as administrative staff for the committee, which results in no fiscal impact to Legislative Management.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 432

AN ACT STUDYING EMPLOYERS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EMPLOYEES.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 9 Nay 5