

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2010
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB656

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 11, 2009
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Harms
One Liner: Adopt the Health Care Accessibility and Affordability Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Campbell, Gay, Gloor, Howard, Pankonin, Stuthman, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator John Harms
John Benson, Jr.
Richard O'Brien
Ron Asher
Paul Plofchan
Cora Micek
Jim Cunningham
Kay Oestmann
David Holmquist
Shad Beavers

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Pfizer Inc.
Nebraska Hospital Association
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Public Health Association of Nebraska
American Cancer Society
Creighton School of Law Healthcare Legislative Council

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Mick Mines

Representing:

NAIFA- NE

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 656 adopts the Health Care Accessibility and Affordability Act (act). The bill contains legislative findings. The purpose of the act is to "provide for reform of Nebraska's health care delivery system and health care financing system to assure high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care coverage for all Nebraska residents." The bill provides legislative intent to "develop a comprehensive plan for the State of Nebraska which ensures health insurance coverage for all Nebraska residents not covered by medicare and fair sharing of health care costs by all Nebraska residents through a basic health insurance benefit plan that includes preventive services, behavioral health care, dental care, and long-term care and to provide for the timely enactment of necessary and appropriate legislation to implement such plan." The bill provides legislative intent regarding the plan and its provisions. The bill creates the Health Care Plan Advisory Council (council), consisting of six persons appointed by the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and six persons appointed by the chairperson of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature. The council must include at least one representative from each of the following classes of persons: health care providers, health care consumers and consumer advocates, business representatives, insurers, and elected officials. Members will be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. The council is required to provide

recommendations concerning the comprehensive plan to the Governor and members of the Health and Human Services and the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committees of the Legislature by September 1, 2010. The bill requires the chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee and the chairperson of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, in consultation with the committees, to prepare and introduce legislation in the One Hundred Second Legislature, First Session, to implement the recommendations of the council.

Tim Gay, Chairperson