

HOUSE BILL NO. 544

INTRODUCED BY A. WITTICH

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT FACILITATING PURCHASE OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE FEDERAL HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE; REQUIRING AN ENROLLMENT AND OUTREACH EFFORT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PURCHASE OF A QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN THROUGH THE FEDERAL HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE; REQUIRING A REPORT; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Enrollment and outreach program -- enrollment facilitation board --**

**coordinator.** (1) There is a federal health benefit exchange enrollment facilitation board that shall undertake activities to increase public awareness of, knowledge about, and enrollment in health insurance coverage by individuals with incomes of 100% to 138% of the federal poverty level.

(2) The board shall undertake its activities in conjunction with the commissioner of insurance designated in 2-15-1903 and is attached to the commissioner's office for administrative purposes.

(3) The board consists of 13 members as follows:

(a) two members representing health insurance issuers on the federal health benefit exchange created pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 18041;

(b) two individuals who are licensed in Montana to sell health insurance policies and are selling qualified health plans, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 18021, on the federal health benefit exchange;

(c) two health care providers;

(d) one representative of a federally qualified health center established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 254b;

(e) one certified application counselor provided for in federal rule;

(f) one representative of a group that advocates for low-income individuals; and

(g) four legislators, two from the Montana house of representatives and two from the Montana senate appointed as follows:

(i) one senator of the majority party appointed by the senate president and one senator of the minority party appointed by the senate minority leader; and



1 (ii) one representative of the majority party appointed by the speaker of the house and one representative  
2 of the minority party appointed by the house minority leader.

3 (4) The commissioner shall appoint the nonlegislative members of the board and determine the  
4 frequency with which the board meets.

5 (5) The board shall work with the commissioner on ways to:

6 (a) establish relationships with parties interested in publicizing the availability of qualified health plans  
7 on the federal health benefit exchange;

8 (b) effectively distribute information on the availability of federal premium assistance credits under 26  
9 U.S.C. 36B for the purchase of qualified health plans and the federal penalties for failure to purchase a qualified  
10 health plan; and

11 (c) maximize enrollment in a qualified health plan through the federal health benefit exchange by  
12 individuals with incomes of 100% to 138% of the federal poverty level.

13 (6) The commissioner shall report to the board on efforts undertaken to increase the enrollment of  
14 low-income individuals in a qualified health plan. The report must include:

15 (a) an evaluation of the effectiveness of each education and information effort undertaken under this  
16 section;

17 (b) the number of individuals with an income of 100% to 138% of the federal poverty level who have  
18 purchased a qualified health plan through the federal health benefit exchange; and

19 (c) an analysis of the demographics of the individuals who purchased insurance, to the extent the  
20 information is available.

21 (7) Board members are entitled to compensation and reimbursement of expenses as provided in  
22 2-15-122.

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24 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$100,000 from the general fund  
25 to the state auditor's office for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015. The money must be used for the education  
26 and outreach activities required under [section 1], including expenses related to operation of the federal health  
27 benefit exchange enrollment facilitation board.

28 (2) The appropriation in this section is a one-time-only appropriation.

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30 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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