

40-4702. Same; Kansas business health policy committee; membership; organization; powers and duties. (a) The governor of the state of Kansas shall appoint a committee which shall be known as the Kansas business health policy committee, whose purpose is to explore opportunities and encourage employer participation in health plans developed by the committee for low and modest wage employees of small employers.

(b) The Kansas business health policy committee, hereinafter referred to as the health committee, shall consist of:

- (1) The secretary of the department of commerce or the secretary's designee;
- (2) the secretary of the department of social and rehabilitation services or the secretary's designee;
- (3) the commissioner of insurance or the commissioner's designee;
- (4) one member appointed by the president of the senate;
- (5) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (6) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
- (7) one member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; and
- (8) three members at large from the private sector appointed by the governor.

The secretary of each state agency represented on this committee shall provide such staff and other resources as the health committee may require.

(c) (1) The initial meeting of the health committee shall be convened within 60 days after the effective date of this act by the governor at a time and place designated by the governor.

(2) Meetings of the health committee subsequent to its initial meeting shall be held and conducted in accordance with policies and procedures established by the health committee.

(3) Commencing at the time of the initial meeting of the health committee, the powers, authorities, duties and responsibilities conferred and imposed upon the health committee by this act shall be operative and effective.

(d) The health committee shall develop and approve a request for proposals for a qualified entity to serve as the Kansas business health partnership, hereinafter referred to as health partnership, which shall provide a mechanism to combine federal and state subsidies with contributions from small employers and eligible employees to purchase health insurance in accordance with guidelines developed by the health committee.

(e) The health committee shall evaluate responses to the request for proposals and select the qualified entity to serve as the health partnership.

(f) The health committee shall:

(1) Develop, approve and revise subsidy eligibility criteria provided that:

(A) Low wage and modest wage employees of small employers shall be eligible for subsidies if:

(i) The small employer has not previously offered health insurance coverage within the two years next preceding the date upon which health insurance is offered; or

(ii) the small employer has previously offered health insurance coverage and a majority of such small employer's employees are low wage or modest wage employees as defined in K.S.A. 40-4701, and amendments thereto;

(B) any small employer's eligible employee with a child who is eligible for coverage under the state children's health insurance program established by K.S.A. 38-2001 et seq., and amendments thereto, or in the state medical assistance program shall be eligible automatically for a subsidy and shall be included in the determination of eligibility for the small employer and its low and modest wage employees; and

(C) at least 70% of the small employer's eligible employees without group health insurance coverage from another source are insured through the partnership; and

(2) determine and arrange for eligibility determination for subsidies of low wage or modest wage employees; and

(3) develop subsidy schedules based upon eligible employee wage levels and family income; and

(4) be responsible for arranging for the provision of affordable health care coverage for eligible employees of small employers and evaluating and creating the opportunity to improve health care provided by plans in the small group health insurance program.

(g) The health committee shall oversee and monitor the ongoing operation of any subsidy program and the financial accountability of all subsidy funds. If, in the judgment of the health committee, the entity selected to serve as the health partnership fails to perform as intended, the health committee may terminate its selection and designation of that entity as the health partnership and may issue a new request for proposal and select a different qualified entity to serve as the health partnership.

(h) The health committee is hereby authorized to accept funds from the federal government, or its agencies, or any other source whatsoever for research studies, investigation, planning and other purposes related to implementation of the objectives of this act. Any funds so received shall be deposited in the state treasury and shall be credited to a special revenue fund which is hereby created and shall be known as the health committee insurance fund and used in accordance with or direction of the contributing federal agencies. Expenditures from such fund may be made for any purpose in keeping with the responsibilities, functions and authority of the department. Warrants on such fund shall be drawn in the same manner as required of other state agencies upon vouchers approved by the secretary of health and environment, or the secretary's designee, upon receiving prior approval of the health committee.

(i) The health committee is authorized to develop policies for the administration of the subsidy program and for the use of additional federal or private funds to subsidize health insurance coverage for low and modest wage employees of predominantly low-wage small employers. The health committee shall be responsible for setting benefit levels and establishing performance measures for health plans providing health care coverage for this program that include quality, preventative health and other supplementary measures. The health committee shall limit access to the program subsidy to the projected annualized expenditure.

(j) The health committee is hereby authorized to organize, or cause to be organized, one or more advisory committees. No member of any advisory committee established under this subsection shall have previously received or currently receive any payment or other compensation from the health partnership. The membership of each advisory committee established under this subsection shall contain at least one representative who is a small employer and one representative who is an eligible employee as defined in K.S.A. 40-4701, and amendments thereto, and one representative of the insurance industry.

(k) The health committee shall report on an annual basis on the following subjects:

- (1) Quality assurance measures;
- (2) disease prevention activities;
- (3) disease management activities; and

(4) other activities or programs the committee decides to include.

History: L. 2000, ch. 147, § 48; L. 2002, ch. 112, § 3; L. 2003, ch. 154, § 14; L. 2004, ch. 159, § 15; L. 2005, ch. 187, § 38; L. 2012, ch. 102, § 20; July 1.