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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH  
SESSION

HOUSE FILE NO. **1044**

February 15, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to student health insurance; establishing grant programs; appropriating  
1.3 money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 135A.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **[135A.141] QUALIFYING STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**  
1.6 **PROGRAM.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Health insurance required.** Every full-time and part-time student  
1.8 enrolled in a public or private institution of higher education located in the state shall  
1.9 participate in a qualifying student health insurance program. For the purposes of this  
1.10 section, "part-time student" means a student participating in at least 50 percent of the  
1.11 full-time curriculum. An institution may elect to allow students to waive participation  
1.12 in its student health insurance program or any part of it if the institution permitting such  
1.13 waivers requires students waiving participation to certify in writing, prior to any academic  
1.14 year in which they do not participate in the institution's plan, that they are participating  
1.15 in a health insurance plan having comparable coverage.

1.16 Subd. 2. **Report.** Each public and private institution of higher education shall submit  
1.17 an annual report to the commissioner of health detailing its procedures for complying  
1.18 with the provisions of this section. Prior to the implementation of this section, the  
1.19 commissioner of health shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on health  
1.20 policy and finance that includes, but is not limited to, an analysis of the number of students  
1.21 lacking health insurance, the costs of the requirements of this section to the students and  
1.22 the institutions of higher education, and a proposed method for meeting the costs.

1.23 Subd. 3. **Penalty.** Any public or private institution of higher education failing to  
1.24 carry out its responsibilities under this section shall pay a penalty of \$50 per student per

2.1 day for every day during which the failure continues. Any penalties collected pursuant  
2.2 to this section shall be deposited in the general fund. Any institution that relies in  
2.3 good faith on statements by students related to their health insurance status shall not be  
2.4 liable for any penalty or for failure to comply with provisions of this section caused by  
2.5 misstatements of students.

2.6 Subd. 4. **Rules.** The commissioner of health shall issue rules to define qualifying  
2.7 student health insurance programs, to establish procedures to monitor compliance, and to  
2.8 implement the provisions of this section.

2.9 Subd. 5. **Suicide intervention and prevention grant.** \$..... in fiscal year 2008 and  
2.10 \$..... in fiscal year 2009 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of  
2.11 human services for grants for institutions of higher education in the state of Minnesota to  
2.12 coordinate implementation of youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies.