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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION

**HOUSE FILE No. 992**

February 19, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to insurance; permitting local school districts to choose to provide  
1.3 health coverage to their employees through the state employee group insurance  
1.4 plan; specifying the procedure a school district must use to make that choice;  
1.5 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 43A.

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

1.7 Section 1. [43A.241] SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERMITTED TO JOIN STATE  
1.8 EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN.

1.9 (a) For purposes of this section, "eligible person" means an employee, retiree, or  
1.10 other person eligible for health coverage under the school district's eligibility rules.  
1.11 "Eligible person" does not include a person who is eligible for coverage only as a  
1.12 dependent of an eligible person.

1.13 (b) A school district located in this state may choose to enroll its eligible persons in  
1.14 the hospital, medical, and dental plans made available to state employees under section  
1.15 43A.23. The commissioner must charge the school district a premium equal to that  
1.16 charged for coverage of state employees.

1.17 (c) A school district that wishes to enroll under this section must do so only upon:

1.18 (1) obtaining a binding premium quotation from the commissioner;

1.19 (2) a majority vote in favor by the school board; and

1.20 (3) a majority vote in favor by the eligible persons. A majority of those who vote is  
1.21 required for approval. This vote shall be conducted only after a majority vote in favor  
1.22 by the school board.

1.23 (d) The school district must provide eligible persons with a 30-day voting period  
1.24 within which to vote by paper ballot, either in person or by mail, at the option of the  
1.25 individual eligible person. No later than the first day of the 30-day voting period, the

2.1 school district shall mail to each eligible person written materials that describe the plans  
2.2 available under section 43A.23, the premium costs that would be charged by the state to  
2.3 the school district for individual and family coverage, and the amount of those premium  
2.4 costs that the eligible person would have to pay. The written materials must also provide  
2.5 information on the options that would be available to eligible persons within the state  
2.6 plans. The mailing must also include a ballot that the eligible person may use to vote for or  
2.7 against the proposal that the school district obtain coverage under the state plans, together  
2.8 with instructions for using the ballot to vote, either in person or by mail. The instructions  
2.9 and the ballot must state conspicuously that the ballot will count only if received by the  
2.10 school district or postmarked within the 30-day balloting period.

2.11 (e) A school district that has decided to obtain coverage under this section must  
2.12 notify the commissioner no later than 90 days prior to the beginning of the month for  
2.13 which the district wishes coverage to begin. The school district must remain in the plans  
2.14 for at least two years.

2.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.