

One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB838

Chairperson: Senator Rich Pahls

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Date of Hearing: February 21, 2012

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

This bill would enact the Nebraska Health Benefit Exchange Act in response to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended, of 2010.

The provisions of this bill are taken almost entirely from the American Health Benefit Exchange Model Act as developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

The bill's purpose would be to provide for (1) the establishment of a Nebraska health benefit exchange to facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health plans in the individual market in this state and (2) the establishment of a Small Business Health Options Program to assist qualified small employers in this state in facilitating the enrollment of their employees in qualified health plans offered in the small group market. The intent of the exchange would be to reduce the number of uninsured, provide for a transparent marketplace and consumer education, and assist individuals with access to programs, premium assistance tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions.

The bill, as based on the NAIC model act, would set out the statutory framework for establishment and maintenance of a Nebraska exchange. The bill would set out its purpose and intent. It would define various terms. There would be provisions for establishment of an exchange; general requirements for an exchange; duties of an exchange; health benefit plan certification; funding to support operation of an exchange; and rule and regulation authority.

The bill would provide that the Director of Insurance is authorized to establish the Nebraska exchange.

Principal Introducer: _____

