

**First Regular Session
Sixty-eighth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 11-0058.01 Bart Miller

SENATE BILL 11-019

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

King K.,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Stephens,

Senate Committees

Health and Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING PAYMENT OF THE COSTS OF HEALTH INSURANCE**
102 **COVERAGE TO EMPLOYEES OF SMALL EMPLOYERS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Current Colorado law prohibits small employers (50 or fewer employees) from paying or reimbursing employees for the costs of health insurance premiums unless the small employer offers a small group health insurance plan. **Section 1** of the bill deletes these provisions from the Colorado health insurance statutes, thereby allowing small employers to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

pay or reimburse employees for the cost of health insurance premiums even if the small employer does not offer health insurance coverage as a benefit of employment.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 SECTION 1. 10-16-105.2, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
3 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

4 10-16-105.2. Small employer health insurance availability
5 program. (1.5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A
6 SMALL EMPLOYER THAT DOES NOT HAVE, AND HAS NOT HAD IN THE
7 PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, A SMALL GROUP HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN
8 PROVIDING COVERAGE TO ITS EMPLOYEES UNDER THIS ARTICLE MAY
9 REIMBURSE AN EMPLOYEE, WHETHER THROUGH WAGE ADJUSTMENTS OR
10 HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS, FOR ANY PORTION OF THE
11 PREMIUM FOR A HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN.

12 SECTION 2. Effective date - applicability. This act shall take
13 effect upon passage and shall apply to payments or reimbursements to
14 employees of small employers for the costs of health insurance premiums
15 on or after said date.

16 SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.