

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 573

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO GROUP INSURANCE; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 57, TITLE 67, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 67-5761B, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR STATE EMPLOYEES, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE FOR CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO A HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT BY STATE EMPLOYEES, TO PROVIDE FOR A CHOICE OF HIGH-Deductible HEALTH PLANS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO PROMULGATE RULES.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage, facilitate and fund health savings accounts for employees of the State of Idaho who are enrolled in a high-deductible health plan. By encouraging state employees to create a health savings account, they will be empowered to make sound, responsible decisions and better manage their own medical care.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 57, Title 67, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 67-5761B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

67-5761B. HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS FOR STATE EMPLOYEES. (1) All state officers or employees may, for themselves and their eligible dependents, create and maintain a health savings account and choose a high-deductible health plan in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Health savings account" means a financial account that is designed to help individuals save for future health care expenses pursuant to 26 U.S.C. section 223.

(b) "High-deductible health plan" means a health plan that would qualify for a health savings account pursuant to 26 U.S.C. section 223.

(3) State officers or employees who enroll in a high-deductible health plan shall have the difference between the premium cost of a high-deductible health plan and the premium cost of the state's lowest deductible group health plan offered by the department of administration deposited, in an amount not to exceed the internal revenue service's maximum allowable contribution, into such officer or employee's health savings account by the department of administration on a monthly basis.

(4) State officers or employees may enroll in a high-deductible health plan offered by the department of administration or may choose their own high-deductible health plan on the open market with the premium cost to be paid by the department of administration in an amount not to exceed the premium cost authorized for state contracted health plans.

1 (5) State officers or employees with a health savings account may
2 freely contribute to such account of their own accord.

3 (6) The department of administration may promulgate rules to implement
4 the provisions of this section.