

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2283

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2004

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

AN ACT

To extend Federal funding for operation of State high risk health insurance pools.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “State High Risk Pool
5 Funding Extension Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR OPERATION OF**
 2 **STATE HIGH RISK HEALTH INSURANCE**
 3 **POOLS.**

4 (a) EXTENSION OF SEED GRANTS.—Section 2745 of
 5 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–45) is
 6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), in the subsection heading
 8 by inserting “EXTENSION OF” before “SEED”; and

9 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking
 10 “\$20,000,000” and all that follows through “2003”
 11 and inserting “\$15,000,000 for the period of fiscal
 12 years 2004 and 2005”.

13 (b) FUNDS FOR OPERATIONS.—Section 2745 of the
 14 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–45) is
 15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in the subsection heading by striking
 18 “MATCHING”; and

19 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
 20 ing the following:

21 “(2) ALLOTMENT.—The amounts appropriated
 22 under subsection (c)(2) for a fiscal year shall be
 23 made available to the States (or the entities that op-
 24 erate the high risk pool under applicable State law)
 25 as follows:

1 “(A) An amount equal to 50 percent of the
2 appropriated amount for the fiscal year shall be
3 allocated in equal amounts among each eligible
4 State that applies for assistance under this sub-
5 section.

6 “(B) An amount equal to 25 percent of the
7 appropriated amount for the fiscal year shall be
8 allocated among the States so that the amount
9 provided to a State bears the same ratio to
10 such available amount as the number of unin-
11 sured individuals in the State bears to the total
12 number of uninsured individuals in all States
13 (as determined by the Secretary).

14 “(C) An amount equal to 25 percent of the
15 appropriated amount for the fiscal year shall be
16 allocated among the States so that the amount
17 provided to a State bears the same ratio to
18 such available amount as the number of individ-
19 uals enrolled in health care coverage through
20 the qualified high risk pool of the State bears
21 to the total number of individuals so enrolled
22 through qualified high risk pools in all States
23 (as determined by the Secretary).”; and

24 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking
25 “\$40,000,000” and all that follows through the pe-

1 riod and inserting “\$75,000,000 for each of fiscal
2 years 2005 through 2009 to make allotments under
3 subsection (b)(2).”.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2745 of the Public
5 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–45) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (d), by inserting after
7 “2744(c)(2)” the following: “, except that with re-
8 spect to subparagraph (A) of such section a State
9 may elect to provide for the enrollment of eligible in-
10 dividuals through an acceptable alternative mecha-
11 nism,”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(e) STANDARD RISK RATE.—In subsection
14 (b)(1)(A), the term ‘standard risk rate’ means a rate—

15 “(1) determined under the State high risk pool
16 by considering the premium rates charged by other
17 health insurers offering health insurance coverage to
18 individuals in the insurance market served;

19 “(2) that is established using reasonable actu-
20 arial techniques; and

1 “(3) that reflects anticipated claims experience
2 and expenses for the coverage involved.”.

Passed the Senate November 16, 2004.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.