

State Employees Health Care Commission—Membership, Role, and Reporting Changes; HB 2218

HB 2218 amends law governing the implementation and administration of the State Health Care Benefits Program (State Employee Health Plan [SEHP]) by adding provisions regarding the role of the State Employees Health Care Commission (Commission), modifying the membership requirements of the Commission, and specifying additional reporting information to be provided by the Commission to the Legislature.

Role of Commission

The bill adds to language directing the Commission to develop and provide for the implementation and administration of the SEHP, stating the Commission shall balance meeting the health care needs of state employees at an affordable cost to the employees with the final impact on the State.

Commission Membership Changes

The bill changes the requirements of two of the members appointed by the Governor to the Commission in the following manner:

- One member is a state employee who is currently enrolled in the SEHP group health insurance medical plan;
 - Under current law, this member is a state employee in the classified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act. There is no requirement regarding health plan participation; and
- One member is a retired state employee who is currently enrolled in the SEHP group health insurance medical plan;
 - Under current law, this member is a person who retired from a position in the classified service under the Kansas Civil Service Act. There is no requirement regarding health plan participation.

Additional Members

The bill expands the Commission from five to seven members, by adding:

- One member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, appointed by, and to serve at the pleasure of, the President of the Senate; and
- One member of the House Committee on Appropriations, appointed by, and to serve at the pleasure of, the Speaker of the House.

Under the bill, the Commission is composed of seven members; its other members, under continuing law, are the state employee and the retiree described above, the Commissioner of Insurance, the Secretary of Administration, and a representative of the general public who is appointed by the Governor.

Reporting by the Commission to the Legislature

The bill amends the statutory reporting requirements for the Commission to include a report on the current and projected reserve balance. For any reserve balance over 10.0 percent of average plan expenses for the three immediately preceding plan years, the Commission is required to provide recommendations for reducing reserves by minimizing increases to employee contributions or cost-sharing requirements.