

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB993

Chairperson: Senator Mike Gloor

Committee: Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2014

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

Legislative Bill 993 would exempt Health Care Sharing Ministries From Nebraska's Insurance Code. The bill would define a "Health care sharing ministry" as a faith-based, non-profit organization that is tax-exempt under the Internal Revenue Code which:

1. Limits its participants to those who are of a similar faith;
2. Acts as a facilitator among participants who have financial or medical needs and matches those participants with other participants with the present ability to assist those with financial or medical needs in accordance with criteria established by the health care sharing ministry;
3. Provides for the financial or medical needs of a participant through contributions from one participant to another;
4. Provides amounts that participants may contribute with no assumption of risk or promise to pay among the participants, and no assumption of risk or promise to pay by the health care sharing ministry to the participants;
5. Provides a written monthly statement to all participants that lists the total dollar amount of qualified need submitted to the health care sharing ministry, as well as the amount actually published or assigned to participants for their contribution;
6. Provides a written disclaimer on or accompanying all applications and guideline materials distributed by or on behalf of the organization that explains that health care sharing is not insurance;
7. Have participants, which retain participation even after they develop a medical condition; and
8. Conducts an annual audit that is performed by an independent certified public accounting firm in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and, which is made available to the public upon request.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mark Christensen

