



## SENATE BILL 11-200

CONCERNING A COLORADO HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING  
A PROCESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE IN COLORADO.

### **Background**

In May of 2011 the Colorado General Assembly adopted Senate Bill 11-200 thus creating a process for the implementation of a Health Benefit Exchange in Colorado (the Exchange). The bill has bipartisan support and involved collaboration of businesses, consumers, providers, insurers and the state legislature. The legislative framework is minimal and designed to avoid, at this stage, more contentious questions about the Exchange.

### **Rational**

Under the Affordable Care Act states may participate in a national Exchange operated by the federal government or create a state-based Exchange. The General Assembly created a Colorado Exchange to fit the unique needs of Colorado, seek Colorado-specific solutions, and explore the maximum number of options available to the state of Colorado. The intent of the Colorado Exchange is to increase access, affordability, and choice for individuals and small employers purchasing health insurance in Colorado.

### **Unincorporated Public Entity**

This bipartisan bill creates the Exchange as an independent public entity not affiliated with an existing state agency or department.

### **Board Appointments**

The Exchange will be governed by a board consisting of nine members; five appointed by the Governor, and one each appointed by: the President of the Senate; the Speaker of the House; the Minority Leader of the House; the Minority Leader of the Senate. These appointments should be coordinated to ensure a broad representation of identified skill sets including: individual and small business health insurance, health insurance purchasing, health benefits administration, health care finance, economics or actuarial science, health care delivery system, provision of health care, consumer navigation, information technology, and starting a small business.

### **Duties of the Board**

The board shall appoint an executive director, create an initial operational and financial plan, apply for federal planning and establishment grants, create technical advisory groups as needed, and provide an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on January 15th of each year.

### **Oversight**

A joint committee of the General Assembly entitled "Legislative Health Benefit Exchange Implementation Review Committee" will review the actions of the board, some of which are subject to Review Committee approval.