

Health Cost Containment and Efficiencies in Colorado

NCSL Briefs for State Legislators

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A Colorado Supplement

Pooling Public Employee Health Care

Colorado does not pool its state employee health benefit plan for current employees with other public sector employees, such as school districts or cities and counties. The “active” state employee plan is run by the Division of Human Resources at the Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration.

Colorado pools state employee retiree health benefit plans through the Colorado Public Employees’ Retirement Association (PERA), a separate entity that also represents more than 400 local jurisdictions, including all public schools and charter schools. In 2009, the legislature enacted Senate bill 09-282, which added Denver Public School employees and retirees to the PERA plan.¹

During the 2010 session, the Colorado General Assembly considered HB10-1266, a bill to expand the state group benefit plan for current employees,² to allow many local governments, small businesses and nonprofit organizations to voluntarily offer employee participation in fully funded state group benefit plans for medical and dental coverage. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Appropriations Committee in April 2010.

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1. A list of state and local employers included in the PERA retiree benefits is online at <http://www.copera.org/pera/employer/list.stm>

2. Colorado Legislative Council Staff, *Final Fiscal Note HB 10-1266* (Denver, Colo.: Colorado Legislature, April 23, 2010); http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2010a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/01F52CD506CF154D872576BF006988FB?Open&file=HB1266_f1.pdf.

