

ciency programs to their customers through energy efficiency plans. An energy efficiency plan as a whole shall be cost-effective. In determining the cost-effectiveness of an energy efficiency plan, the board shall apply the societal test, utility cost test, rate-payer impact test, and participant test. Energy efficiency programs for qualified low-income persons and for tree planting programs, educational programs, and assessments of consumers' needs for information to make effective choices regarding energy use and energy efficiency need not be cost-effective and shall not be considered in determining cost-effectiveness of plans as a whole. The energy efficiency programs in the plans may be provided by the utility or by a contractor or agent of the utility. Programs offered pursuant to this subsection by gas and electric utilities that are required to be rate-regulated shall require board approval.

Sec. 17. ENERGY EFFICIENCY STUDIES — IOWA UTILITIES BOARD.

1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLANS. The Iowa utilities board, in conjunction with other interested parties, shall conduct a study of the energy efficiency plans and programs offered by all gas and electric utilities pursuant to section 476.6 to determine the status and effectiveness of energy efficiency programs in the state, using the most accurate and up-to-date information available to the board during the time period prescribed for the study. The board shall report the results of the study, with recommendations for best practices to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption, to the members of the general assembly by January 1, 2008.

2. FUTURE CONSUMER ENERGY REDUCTION PLAN. The board shall coordinate with the Iowa energy center to conduct a consumer survey and study relating to consumer knowledge of energy use and energy efficiency, and methods for increasing such knowledge, with the objective of reducing consumer energy utilization. The board shall report the results of the study to the members of the general assembly by January 1, 2008.

Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Approved May 23, 2007

CHAPTER 169

UNIFORM HEALTH INSURANCE APPLICATION FORM FOR SMALL EMPLOYERS

S.F. 346

AN ACT providing for the development of a uniform health insurance application form for use by small employers.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 513B.19 UNIFORM APPLICATION FORM.

The commissioner shall develop, by rule, a uniform application form for use by small employers applying for new health insurance coverage under group health plans offered by small employer carriers. Small employer carriers shall be required to use the uniform application form not less than six months after the rules developing the form become effective under chapter 17A.

Approved May 24, 2007