

North Dakota HB 1584 ONLY leads to Increased Prescription Drug Costs

Health care costs are already high in North Dakota, and HB 1584 would only contribute to the problem and increase costs.

- The proposed legislation would change existing law by **removing the exclusion** of self-funded health plans organized under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) law from the definition of “covered entity.”
- The result of removing the exclusion of ERISA self-funded health plans would open the door to additional government mandates.
- This would lead to increased costs for businesses and other employer groups in North Dakota that choose to self-fund health benefits for employees.
- The legislation could mean the current anti-business laws would now apply to the self-funded market.
- While some of the provisions are subject to interpretation, it is estimated this could cost self-funded health plans **\$23 million in excess drug spending** in the first year alone and **\$417 million** over the next 10 years.

