The first bill signed into law in Minnesota this year will provide relief to the state's 125,000 residents who purchase their health insurance in the individual market and are not eligible for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. The cost of premiums for Minnesotans in this population is rising by 55 percent in 2017.

According to The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune, eligible residents will get a rebate of 25 percent, at a cost of $327 million to the state. Another provision in HF 1/SF 1 allows for-profit health maintenance organizations to be part of the state-run, individual health marketplace, notes Session Daily, a news service of the Minnesota House. In addition, agricultural cooperatives can now offer group health insurance to members.

In a fall study of states' insurance exchanges under the Affordable Care Act, Kaiser Family Foundation researchers found that premium hikes in 2017 would be more severe than in previous years. These increases, Kaiser found, are partly the result of losses experienced by insurers and a phasing out of the federal law's reinsurance program. Its analysis focused on premiums being paid by health consumers in a major city in every U.S. state. The highest increases in the Midwest were reported in Minnesota (55 percent), Illinois (48 percent), Kansas (46 percent) and South Dakota (45 percent).