

Montana Gov. Rejects GOP Anti-Federal Health Care Laws

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Source: Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. -- Gov. Brian Schweitzer is using his veto pen to spar with Republicans intent on undermining the federal health care law.

Schweitzer on Friday issued two amendatory vetoes of legislation from the GOP majority. One bill aimed to force the state to join a lawsuit over the federal law.

The other would have prevented the state from administering the individual mandate to buy insurance.

The governor says he will agree the mandate is "onerous" in the current law _ if Republicans agree a cheap public option for health insurance would make it feasible.

Schweitzer says he will only sign the bill forcing a lawsuit if it is changed to simply urge the attorney general to get involved, and if lawmakers take \$400,000 from their budget to pay for it.