

HOUSE No. 4999

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR
KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
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May 31, 2006.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

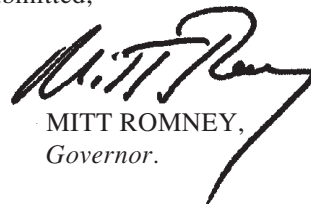
I am filing for your consideration “An Act Increasing Parental Involvement and Responsibility Relative to Health Insurance.”

The attached legislation requires the Department of Revenue’s Child Support Enforcement Division (CSE) to collect contributions toward MassHealth from noncustodial parents if private health insurance is not available and the child is not enrolled in another medical security plan.

Until now, there has been no effective way of recovering from noncustodial parents any of the money that the Commonwealth spends on providing health care coverage to their children through MassHealth. This bill would allow the state to collect contributions from noncustodial parents to defray health insurance costs. I believe that the Commonwealth must encourage both parents to be active participants in the health and welfare of their children.

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,


MITT ROMNEY,
Governor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Six.

AN ACT INCREASING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY
RELATIVE TO HEALTH INSURANCE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 12 of chapter 119A of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in
3 line 79, the word “means” and inserting in place thereof the
4 following:—

5 means. If health care coverage is not available to the obligor
6 through an employer or is not otherwise available to the obligor at
7 reasonable cost, the court shall determine whether the child is cur-
8 rently enrolled in a medical assistance program pursuant to sec-
9 tions 9, 9A, or 9C of chapter 118E. Upon such a determination,
10 the court shall order, in accordance with regulations promulgated
11 by the commissioner of revenue, the obligor to pay to the com-
12 monwealth an amount in a sum certain as a contribution toward
13 the cost of medical assistance provided to the child; provided that
14 such amount shall not exceed five percent of the gross income of
15 the obligor, nor shall such amount reduce the amount of current
16 support required under the child support guidelines promulgated
17 by the chief justice for administration and management. Health
18 care coverage shall be ordered in accordance with this section.