

HOUSE No. 1117

By Mr. Walsh of Boston, petition of Martin J. Walsh relative to group purchasing of health insurance for private sector human service workers. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO GROUP PURCHASING OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR HUMAN SERVICE WORKERS.

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 1. M.G.L. c. 32A, Section 2b, is amended effective
2 January 1, 2006, by inserting after “United States” in line 2 the
3 following: “and a person who is an employee of a vendor which pro-
4 vides human services and which is under contract with any agency
5 within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.”

1 SECTION 2. M.G.L. c. 32A, Section 2c, is amended effective
2 January 1, 2006, by inserting after “Massachusetts” in line 1 the
3 following: “or employer of any employee, as defined in Subsection
4 (b).”

1 SECTION 3. M.G.L. 32A is amended effective January 1, 2006,
2 by adding “Section 10F. Insurance for employees of human service
3 vendor employers. The commission shall negotiate with and pur-
4 chase on such terms as it deems to be in the best interest of the Com-
5 monwealth, the vendor employers covered under this section
6 chapter, and the affected employees and their dependents, from one
7 or more insurance companies or non-profit hospital, medical, or
8 other service corporations, a policy or policies of group general or
9 blanket insurance providing hospital, surgical, medical, and other
10 health insurance benefits for said agency employees and their depen-
11 dents. Such policy or policies shall consist of a schedule of hospital,
12 surgical, medical, dental, and other health insurance benefits pur-
13 chased by the Commonwealth under the provisions of section four,

14 or the schedule of hospital, surgical, medical, dental, and other
15 health insurance benefits purchased by counties, cities, towns, and
16 districts under the provisions of section three chapter thirty-two B.

17 (a) With respect to any period of insurance which is in effect for
18 the vendor employees and their dependents, the full cost of the insur-
19 ance shall be borne by the vendor employer and the participating
20 employee. The Commonwealth will not be responsible for con-
21 tributing to the cost of this insurance.

22 (b) The employee's per cent share of the premium shall be with-
23 held by the appropriate employer from the employee's salary on a
24 periodic basis, and shall be forwarded to the Group Insurance Com-
25 mission, heretofore referred to as The Commission, in accordance
26 with its rules and regulations.

27 (c) The Commission shall determine at least annually, or sooner,
28 the amount of premiums for each health plan which shall be reim-
29 bursed to the Commonwealth by each contracting agency having
30 employees insured under this section. The Commission shall also
31 determine, at least annually, the portion of the commission's expense
32 of administering this hospital, surgical, medical, and other health
33 insurance coverage for the employees of vendor employer for this
34 coverage. After such determinations, the commission shall assess
35 each agency an administrative charge equal to their pro rata share of
36 the cost of administering the program.

37 (d) Any dividend or refund accepted by the commission from any
38 insurance carrier as a result of the contract negotiated under this
39 section shall be deposited by the commission with the state treasurer
40 as provided in section nine. The commission shall determine the
41 amount of dividend or refund apportionable to the various vendor
42 employers having employees insured hereunder, and shall reduce the
43 administrative expenses in section (c) attributable to each such
44 vendor employer by the amount of refund attributable thereto.

45 (e) Each employee of a vendor employer to whom this chapter
46 applies shall furnish the commission, in such form as it shall pre-
47 scribe, such information as is necessary to insure himself or himself
48 and his dependents under the hospital, surgical, medical, and other
49 health insurance herein provided, and shall authorize the with-
50 holding of the appropriate premium from his salary by the appro-
51 priate vendor employer.

52 (f) Participation in the health insurance program described in this
53 section is voluntary for vendors which contract to provide human
54 service with the following departments of the Commonwealth: the
55 Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Department of
56 Mental Health, the Department of Mental Retardation, the Depart-
57 ment of Social Services, the Department of Transitional Assistance,
58 the Department of Youth Services, the Disabled Persons Protection
59 Commission, the Division of Employment & Training, the Division
60 of Medical Assistance, the Executive Office for Elder Affairs, the
61 Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Massachusetts
62 Commission for the Blind, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Com-
63 mission and the Office of Child Care Services. This section does not
64 apply to individuals or families which contract directly with the
65 Department of Social Services or the Office of Child Care Services
66 to provide foster care or in-home family daycare. This section also
67 does not apply to individuals who enter into contracts with said
68 departments of the Commonwealth as consultants or independent
69 contractors.”

1 SECTION 4. The commission shall develop a report setting forth
2 plan designs for plans established pursuant to chapter 32A, section
3 10F and appropriate administrative mechanisms for said plans, with
4 the costs associated with both the benefits provided under said plans
5 and administration, and shall file the report with the house and
6 senate committees on ways and means no later than July 1, 2005.