

SENATE NO. 635

AN ACT TO MAINTAIN HEALTH COVERAGE FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL

*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. Section 4 of Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting at
2 the end the following additional new paragraph:

3 “If the health maintenance contract includes coverage for dependent children who are full-time
4 students, as defined by the appropriate educational institution, beyond the age of 18, such
5 dependent coverage shall include coverage for a dependent’s medically necessary leave of
6 absence from school for a period not to exceed 12 months or the date on which coverage would
7 otherwise end pursuant to the terms and conditions of the policy, whichever comes first. Any
8 breaks in the school semester shall not disqualify the dependent child from coverage under this
9 subparagraph. Documentation and certification of the medical necessity of a leave of absence
10 shall be submitted to the insurer by the student’s attending physician and shall be considered
11 prima facie evidence of entitlement to coverage under this subparagraph. The date of the
12 documentation and certification of the medical necessity of a leave of absence shall be the date
13 the insurance coverage under this subparagraph commences.

14 Section 2. Subsection (f) of Section 9 of Chapter 176J of the General Laws is hereby amended
15 by including after section (vi) the following new subsection:

16 “(vii) a dependent child who is a full-time student, as defined by the appropriate educational
17 institution, beyond the age of 18, who takes a medically necessary leave of absence from school
18 for a period not to exceed 12 months or the date on which coverage would otherwise end
19 pursuant to the terms and conditions of the policy, whichever comes first. Any breaks in the
20 school semester shall not disqualify the dependent child from coverage under this subparagraph.
21 Documentation and certification of the medical necessity of a leave of absence shall be
22 submitted to the insurer by the student’s attending physician and shall be considered prima facie
23 evidence of entitlement to coverage under this subparagraph. The date of the documentation and
24 certification of the medical necessity of a leave of absence shall be the date the insurance
25 coverage under this subparagraph commences.”