

Executive Director's Report

2025

Date: December 17, 2025
To: Group Insurance Commission
From: Matthew Veno, Executive Director
Subject: Executive Director's Report

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide Commissioners with the monthly Executive Director's report in writing. Questions and comments from Commissioners on the content of this memo are welcome during this portion of the agenda.

LEGISLATIVE & MUNICIPAL

Legislative

The Senate's new Joint Rule 10 day, the day by which committees must report out bills, was earlier this month, and we saw movement with many of the bills we are tracking. The Fiscal Year 2027 budget process is already underway, and GIC Leadership has begun conversations with the Administration about our needs for the upcoming fiscal year.

Municipal

We saw significant engagement ahead of December 1, the statutory deadline for municipal entities to join the GIC. In total, we received 13 Letters of Intent from entities wishing to join effective July 1, 2026. Of that number, eight entities are member units of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT). Because some of these member units are taking advantage of the one-time extension to submit supporting documentation by January 5, 2026 that the GIC offered to HCGIT member units, GIC staff is working with these entities to ensure they complete the rest of the requirements by the deadline. Over the last five years, the GIC has onboarded only three municipal entities and each of those were the sole municipality onboarded in their plan year. Given the large uptick in interest for this plan year, the GIC is moving forward with a group onboarding procedure. The kickoff Meeting for all municipal entities that submitted a Letter of Intent by December 1 will be held on December 18, 2025, following the December Commission Meeting. The Kickoff is occurring about three weeks earlier than normal, in order to give these entities as much time as possible to get their member data to the GIC.

I would like to thank our extraordinarily hardworking and dedicated staff for rising to this significant operational challenge, at a time when we have a few critically important positions are vacant. The GIC continues to serve a very important service to municipalities in a time of sharply rising premiums, as envisioned when municipal reform was enacted 13 years ago.

COMMUNICATIONS

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As part of the GIC's effort to increase adoption of its MyGICLink member benefits portal, the agency discontinued use of GIC Online Forms (DocuSign) effective December 15, 2025 – a major milestone in the agency's systems modernization. With this change, GIC retired a transitional, legacy system and encourages all members to use MyGICLink as the online tool to manage their GIC benefits. It is important to note that members will still be able to submit paper forms through the mail. The GIC worked with A&F-IT and GIC coordinators on this project to encourage GIC members to use MyGICLink for all future GIC benefit enrollments or changes.

The GIC will hold our Annual Public Information Sessions in January. These sessions are an opportunity for members to hear about plan design changes that the GIC plans to recommend to the Commission, and to provide feedback and input. To give as many members as possible the opportunity to attend, the GIC will hold three separate sessions via Zoom on January 27 at 12:00pm and 6:00pm, and January 29th at 9:00am.