HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 726 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 697

[LOCAL APPROVAL RECEIVED.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sheila C. Harrington and James B. Eldridge

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act to authorize the town of Ayer to negotiate and purchase group insurance policies for employees retirees and dependents without being subject to collective bargaining.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Sheila C. Harrington	*1st Middlesex*
James B. Eldridge	
	☐ *[District]*
	☐

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 697

By Representative Harrington of Groton and Senator Eldridge, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 697) of Sheila C. Harrington and James B. Eldridge (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Ayer to negotiate and purchase group insurance policies for employees retirees and dependents of said town without being subject to collective bargaining. Public Service. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to authorize the town of Ayer to negotiate and purchase group insurance policies for employees retirees and dependents without being subject to collective bargaining.

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 32B and chapter 150E of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the Town of Ayer is authorized at the discretion of the board of selectmen in consultation with the Insurance Advisory Committee, without bargaining under said chapters 32B or 150E concerning the decision or the impact thereof, to negotiate and purchase group insurance policies for employees, retirees and their dependents; alter current and future group insurance plan design features including but not limited to copayments, deductibles, and tiered provider network copayments; and participate in or join a state program providing group insurance policies including those provided by the Group Insurance Commission or other similar program.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not affect the town's obligations under any collective bargaining agreement(s) between the town and any unions in effect on the effective date of this act; provided however, that for purposes of this act, the town's collective bargaining obligations with respect to group insurance policies under any such collective bargaining agreement(s) shall cease as of the date of expiration o fhte agreement(s), regardless of whether a successor collective bargaining agreement has been approved.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.