

HOUSE No. 1055

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martin J. Walsh

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 bill:

An Act Relative to Group Purchasing of Health Insurance for Private Sector Human Service Workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Martin J. Walsh	13th Suffolk
Frank Callahan	

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1117 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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 January 1, 2006, by
2 inserting after “United States” in line 2 the following: “and a person who is an employee of a
3 vendor which provides human services and which is under contract with any agency within the
4 Executive Office of Health and Human Services.”

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

8 SECTION 3. M.G.L. 32A is amended effective January 1, 2006, by adding “Section 10F
9 Insurance for employees of human service vendor employers. The commission shall negotiate
10 with and purchase on such terms as it deems to be in the best interest of the Commonwealth, the
11 vendor employers covered under this section chapter, and the affected employees and their
12 dependents, from one or more insurance companies or non-profit hospital, medical, or other
13 service corporations, a policy or policies of group general or blanket insurance providing
14 hospital, surgical, medical, and other health insurance benefits for said agency employees and
15 their dependents. Such policy or policies shall consist of a schedule of hospital, surgical,
16 medical, dental, and other health insurance benefits purchased by the Commonwealth under the
17 provisions of section four, or the schedule of hospital, surgical, medical, dental, and other health
18 insurance benefits purchased by counties, cities, towns, and districts under the provisions of
19 section three chapter thirty-two B.

- 20 (a) With respect to any period of insurance which is in effect for the vendor employees and
21 their dependents, the full cost of the insurance shall be borne by the vendor employer and
22 the participating employee. The Commonwealth will not be responsible for contributing
23 to the cost of this insurance.
- 24 (b) The employee's per cent share of the premium shall be withheld by the appropriate
25 employer from the employee's salary on a periodic basis, and shall be forwarded to the
26 Group Insurance Commission, heretofore referred to as The Commission, in accordance
27 with its rules and regulations.
- 28 (c) The Commission shall determine at least annually, or sooner, the amount of premiums for
29 each health plan which shall be reimbursed to the Commonwealth by each contracting
30 agency having employees insured under this section. The Commission shall also
31 determine, at least annually, the portion of the commission's expense of administering
32 this hospital, surgical, medical, and other health insurance coverage for the employees of
33 vendor employer for this coverage. After such determinations, the commission shall
34 assess each agency an administrative charge equal to their pro rata share of the cost of
35 administering the program.
- 36 (d) Any dividend or refund accepted by the commission from any insurance carrier as a
37 result of the contract negotiated under this section shall be deposited by the commission
38 with the state treasurer as provided in section nine. The commission shall determine the
39 amount of dividend or refund apportionable to the various vendor employers having
40 employees insured hereunder, and shall reduce the administrative expenses in section (c)
41 attributable to each such vendor employer by the amount of refund attributable thereto.
- 42 (e) Each employee of a vendor employer to whom this chapter applies shall furnish the
43 commission, in such form as it shall prescribe, such information as is necessary to insure
44 himself or himself and his dependents under the hospital, surgical, medical, and other
45 health insurance herein provided, and shall authorize the withholding of the appropriate
46 premium from his salary by the appropriate vendor employer.
- 47 (f) Participation in the health insurance program described in this section is voluntary for
48 vendors which contract to provide human service with the following departments of the
49 Commonwealth: the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Department of
50 Mental Health , the Department of Mental Retardation, the Department of Social
51 Services, the Department of Transitional Assistance, the Department of Youth Services,
52 the Disabled Persons Protection Commission, the Division of Employment & Training,
53 the Division of Medical Assistance, the Executive Office for Elder Affairs, the Executive
54 Office of Health and Human Services, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, the
55 Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and the Office of Child Care Services. This
56 section does not apply to individuals or families which contract directly with the
57 Department of Social Services or the Office of Child Care Services to provide foster care
58 or in-home family daycare. This section also does not apply to individuals who enter into
59 contracts with said departments of the Commonwealth as consultants or independent
60 contractors."

61 SECTION 4. The commission shall develop a report setting forth plan designs for plans
62 established pursuant to chapter 32A, section 10F and appropriate administrative mechanisms
63 for said plans, with the costs associated with both the benefits provided under said plans and

64 administration, and shall file the report with the house and senate committees on ways and
65 means no later than July 1, 2005.