

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1967**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

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*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the provision of group health insurance benefits in the town of Athol.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps Lee</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1967**

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By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1967) of Anne M. Gobi and Susannah M. Whipps Lee (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to the provision of group health insurance benefits in the town of Athol. Public Service. [Local Approval Received.]

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**

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An Act relative to the provision of group health insurance benefits in the town of Athol.

*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. (a) Notwithstanding chapter 32B of the General Laws or any other general  
2       or special law to the contrary, the town of Athol may provide the following subsidiary or  
3       additional contribution rates to the groups or classes of employees identified below that are  
4       eligible under said chapter 32B to participate in the town's contributory group health insurance  
5       plans:

6           Employees hired prior to July 1, 20

7           Plan Type                  Town Contribution                  Employee Contribution

8           HMO plan                  78 %                  22 %

9           PPO plan                  75 %                  25 %

10          Employees hired on or after July 1, 2015:

	Plan Type	Town Contribution	Employee Contribution
11			
12	HMO plan	70 %	30 %
13	PPO plan	65 %	35 %

14                   (b) If an employee becomes separated from service with the town for any reason other  
 15                  than an involuntary layoff and subsequently returns to employment with the town, the  
 16                  employee's most recent date of hire shall be used to determine the applicable contribution rate  
 17                  under this section. If the returning employee's separation was the result of an involuntary layoff,  
 18                  the employee shall contribute at the same rate that the employee was contributing at when the  
 19                  layoff was imposed.

20                 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding chapter 32B of the General Laws or any other general  
 21                 or special law to the contrary, the town of Athol may provide subsidiary or additional  
 22                 contribution rates to groups or classes of retirees who are eligible under said chapter 32B to  
 23                 participate in the town's contributory group health insurance plans. The percentage amount to be  
 24                 contributed by an individual who retired prior to July 1, 2015 shall be 22 per cent for an HMO  
 25                 type plan and 25 per cent for a PPO type plan. The percentage amount to be contributed by an  
 26                 individual who retires on or after July 1, 2015 shall be the same percentage that the retiree was  
 27                 contributing toward that same plan as an active employee immediately prior to the employee's  
 28                 retirement. If the retiree elects to enroll in a plan that is different from the plan in which the  
 29                 retiree was enrolled as an active employee immediately prior to the employee's retirement, the  
 30                 percentage amount to be contributed by the retiree shall be equal to the percentage that the retiree  
 31                 would have contributed at if the retiree been enrolled in the plan as an active employee.

32                   (b) A retiree, spouse or dependent insured or eligible to be insured under said chapter  
33        32B who is required by section 18A of said chapter 32B to transfer to a Medicare health plan  
34        offered by the town under section 11C or section 16 of said chapter 32B shall contribute to the  
35        premiums of the Medicare health plan at 25 per cent and the town shall contribute the remaining  
36        75 per cent.

37                   SECTION 3. Nothing in this act shall preclude the town of Athol from making changes  
38        to the employee or retiree groups and contribution rates identified in sections 1 and 2.

39                   SECTION 4. This act shall take effect as of July 1, 2015.