

HOUSE No. 5169

Text of a further amendment, offered by Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, to the amendment recommended by the Governor (as approved by the House committee on Bills in the Third Reading) to the engrossed Bill authorizing the Health Insurance Connector Authority to implement a 2-year pilot program to extend eligibility for premium assistance payments or point-of-service cost-sharing subsidies for certain applicants (see House, No. 5123).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:—

1 SECTION 1. Section 2000 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after the word “herein”, in line 5, the following
3 words:- ; provided, that all expenditures from the fund shall be approved by the legislature.

4 SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 3 of chapter 176Q of the
5 General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the commonwealth health
6 insurance connector authority, established pursuant to section 2 of said chapter 176Q, shall
7 implement a 2-year pilot program to extend eligibility for premium assistance payments or point-
8 of-service cost-sharing subsidies for applicants at or below 500 per cent of the federal poverty
9 guidelines.

10 (b) Applicants participating in the pilot program that are between 300 and 500 per cent of
11 the federal poverty guidelines shall have access to a plan that meets at least 90 per cent actuarial
12 value; provided, that the affordability standard for the pilot program shall be consistent with
13 current practices pursuant to said section 3 of said chapter 176Q.

14 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of section 2000 of chapter 29 of the General Laws or
15 any other general or special law to the contrary, amounts necessary to support the 2-year pilot
16 program established in subsection (a) shall be expended from the Commonwealth Care Trust
17 Fund established in said section 2000 of said chapter 29.

18 (d) The commonwealth health insurance connector authority, in consultation with the
19 center for health information and analysis, shall evaluate the pilot program to assess the public
20 health, health equity, utilization and financial impacts on residents of reducing out-of-pocket
21 costs and premium costs. The center shall collect quantitative and qualitative data at the start of
22 the pilot program and at the end of each year of the pilot program to assess the impact on pilot
23 program participants. Data points to be collected shall include, but not be limited to: (i) rates of
24 unmet medical need due to cost; (ii) disparities in rates of unmet medical need due to cost; (iii)
25 difficulties accessing care at a doctor's office or clinic; (iv) racial and ethnic disparities in
26 difficulties accessing care at a doctor's office or clinic; (v) insurance coverage rates, including
27 rates of continuous insurance coverage; (vi) racial and ethnic disparities in insurance coverage
28 rates; (vii) visits to a doctor's office; and (viii) racial and ethnic disparities in visits to a doctor's
29 office. The connector shall file reports of its evaluation with the clerks of the house of
30 representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint
31 committee on public health and the joint committee on health care financing not later than
32 December 1, 2024 and December 1, 2025.

33 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, from the
34 effective date of this act through May 31, 2025, except for the purposes described in section
35 2000 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, all revenue credited to the Commonwealth Care Trust
36 Fund established in said section 2000 of said chapter 29 shall be maintained and available to

37 support the implementation and maintenance of the Health Insurance Connector Authority's 2-
38 year pilot program established in section 2; provided, that any funds transferred from the
39 Commonwealth Care Trust Fund to the General Fund between June 30, 2022 and August 15,
40 2022, shall be transferred back into said Commonwealth Care Trust Fund by the comptroller not
41 later than 14 days after the effective date of this act.

42 SECTION 4. Section 2 shall take effect on June 1, 2023.

43 SECTION 5. Section 2 is hereby repealed.

44 SECTION 6. Section 5 shall take effect on May 31, 2025.

45 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.