

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1243**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Christine P. Barber*

*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 creating a MassHealth buy in program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1243**

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By Ms. Barber of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1243) of Christine P. Barber relative to creating a MassHealth buy in program. Health Care Financing.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act creating a MassHealth buy in program.

*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 any general or special law to the contrary, the office of  
2 Medicaid shall establish and offer an optional expanded Medicaid plan for purchase by an  
3 individual or by an employer as an employer-sponsored insurance plan. The optional expanded  
4 plan may set alternate eligibility and cost-sharing standards beyond those established by section  
5 9A of chapter 118E of the General Laws and may condition participation in the program;  
6 provided, however, that any optional expanded plan offered to an employer shall require the  
7 employer to pay not less than 50 per cent of the projected cost of coverage for participating  
8 employees. The office may adjust benefits offered through an optional plan under this section;  
9 provided, however, that the office shall maintain the benefit and cost-sharing standards for those  
10 individuals and employees that meet the eligibility standards established by said section 9A of  
11 said chapter 118E.

12           (b) The office may establish premiums or cost-sharing requirements for an optional  
13 expanded plan that are equal to or exceed the costs of covering participating members based on

14 the per-member-per-month expenditures or other measures. Additional revenue generated in  
15 excess of the cost to administer the expanded plan may be used to increase provider payment  
16 rates within the optional expanded plan and the MassHealth program under said section 9A of  
17 said chapter 118E or otherwise may be applied to the sustainability of the MassHealth program.

18 (c) An individual eligible for MassHealth under said section 9A of said chapter 118E  
19 shall receive commensurate cost sharing, coverage and benefits as they would receive under said  
20 section 9A of said chapter 118E, regardless of participation in the optional expanded plan  
21 through their employer. Nothing in this section shall preclude the office from requiring an  
22 employee to participate in the premium assistance program or a commensurate program.

23 (d) The office may, in addition to premiums or cost sharing required from employers for  
24 employees on the optional expanded plan, require contributions from an employer that  
25 participates in the optional expanded plan as employer-sponsored insurance, for an employee  
26 that meets the eligibility standards under said section 9A of said chapter 118E.

27 (e) The office may apply for federal authorization to permit the application of available  
28 subsidies for participation in the optional expanded plan including, but not limited to, advance  
29 premium tax credits, cost-sharing reductions or state wrap funds applicable to the purchase of  
30 MassHealth coverage through the commonwealth health insurance connector authority.

31 (f) Not later than July 1, 2022, the office shall file a plan outlining: (i) details regarding  
32 the office's proposal to implement an optional expanded plan; (ii) recommended statutory  
33 language, if any; (iii) expected benefits and cost sharing to be offered through the optional  
34 expanded plan; (iv) expected start-up costs to implement the optional expanded plan; (v)  
35 expected revenue from the optional expanded plan to support the full MassHealth program; and

36 (vi) expected savings to the MassHealth program related to the implementation of an optional  
37 expanded plan.