

HOUSE No. 00334

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John D. Keenan

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 Massachusetts artists.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>John D. Keenan</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 00334

By Mr. John D Keenan of Salem, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00334) of Angelo J. Puppolo and others for legislation to provide access for certain workers, including artists, for health care insurance

Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
 HOUSE
 , NO. 1078 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to Massachusetts artists.

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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. Summary. Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006, An Act Providing Access to
2 Affordable, Quality, Accountable Health Care, Providing Access to Affordable, Quality,
3 Accountable Health Care, is hereby amended to improve access to affordable health insurance
4 for self-employed people, independent contractors, working artists, part-time workers, and
5 workers who work part-time jobs and engage in a self-employed enterprise, also known as
6 combined income individuals. This Act will increase eligibility for the Insurance Partnership for
7 both employers and individuals; require small employers to offer a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan;
8 provide the self-employed more support in accessing the most affordable insurance option; and

9 require an in-depth analysis of combined income individuals to determine the impact on their
10 eligibility for assistance.

11 SECTION 2. Employer Eligibility for the Insurance Partnership. Section 9C of Chapter 118E,
12 subsection 1, is hereby amended by replacing subsection (iv) after the word 65 with the
13 following language:— (iv) the division will amend existing regulation 130 CMR 650.000 to
14 make eligible those employers that have provided employees with access to health insurance six-
15 months prior to their application to the Insurance Partnership, provided the employer meets all
16 other existing eligibility requirements under Chapter 118E, Section 9C.

17 SECTION 3. Simplify the Use of Pre-Tax Dollars for Small Business Employees. Any employer
18 with the equivalent total of five full-time employees, as defined in the provisions of Chapter 58,
19 must establish a Section 125 cafeteria plan; and, further comply with the Health Insurance
20 Responsibility Disclosure provisions of Chapter 58. Section 2 of Chapter 151F is hereby
21 amended by changing “10” to “5 or more” after the words “more than.” Section 6c of Chapter
22 118G is hereby amended to insert the following language after the words “every employer”
23 “with 5 employees or more.”

24 SECTION 4. Definition of “Eligible Employee”. Section 9C of Chapter 118E, subsection 1 (as
25 amended by 2006, 58, Sec. 19) under the definition of “Eligible Employee”, is hereby amended
26 by striking subsection (iv) in its entirety.

27 SECTION 5. Section 9C of Chapter 118E, subsection 1 (as amended by 2006, 58, Sec. 19) under
28 the definition of “Eligible Employee”, subsection (v), is hereby amended to change the words
29 “300 per cent of the Federal Poverty Level” to “400 per cent of the Federal Poverty Level” after
30 the words “does not exceed.”

31 SECTION 6. Determining “Income” for Combined Part-Time and Self-Employed Individuals.
32 The Department of Revenue is hereby directed to conduct a study of individuals filing tax returns
33 with multiple sources of income including part-time employment and income from independent
34 contractors and self-employment. The Department of Revenue will also assess the methodology
35 for calculating Adjusted Gross Income for such individuals in order to promulgate regulations
36 that accurately reflects their income, giving special consideration to the expenses associated with
37 the creation of art, learning new skills associated with professional work, inventing new products
38 or processes for commercial purposes, or other professional pursuits from which the individual
39 does not derive a majority or any of their overall income. The Department of Revenue will report
40 their findings to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the Connector Board, the Joint
41 Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development and the House and Senate Committees
42 on Ways and Means no later than 120 days after enactment by the General Court.

43 SECTION 7. Eliminating the Self-employment Penalty. Amend Section 9C of chapter 118E,
44 subsection 1, by adding the following language after the words “eligible employer”:— nothing in
45 this section shall exclude a self-employed single individual or self employed husband and wife
46 from eligibility for programs under Chapter 118H, provided that all other eligibility criteria have
47 been met in accordance with the definitions in Chapter 118E as amended.