

HOUSE No. 996

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

Kay Khan

11th Middlesex

HOUSE No. 996

By Mr. Walsh of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 996) of Martin J. Walsh and Kay Khan relative to group purchasing of health insurance for private sector human service workers. Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 2775 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

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
6 inserting after “Massachusetts” in line 1 the following: “or employer of any employee, as defined
7 in 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 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 the
22 participating employee. The Commonwealth will not be responsible for contributing to the cost
23 of this insurance.

24 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 Group
26 Insurance Commission, heretofore referred to as The Commission, in accordance with its rules
27 and regulations.

28 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 agency
30 having employees insured under this section. The Commission shall also determine, at least
31 annually, the portion of the commission's expense of administering this hospital, surgical,
32 medical, and other health insurance coverage for the employees of vendor employer for this
33 coverage. After such determinations, the commission shall assess each agency an administrative
34 charge equal to their pro rata share of the cost of administering the program.

35 Any dividend or refund accepted by the commission from any insurance carrier as a
36 result of the contract negotiated under this section shall be deposited by the commission with the
37 state treasurer as provided in section nine. The commission shall determine the amount of
38 dividend or refund apportionable to the various vendor employers having employees insured
39 hereunder, and shall reduce the administrative expenses in section (c) attributable to each such
40 vendor employer by the amount of refund attributable thereto.

41 Each employee of a vendor employer to whom this chapter applies shall furnish the
42 commission, in such form as it shall prescribe, such information as is necessary to insure himself
43 or himself and his dependents under the hospital, surgical, medical, and other health insurance
44 herein provided, and shall authorize the withholding of the appropriate premium from his salary
45 by the appropriate vendor employer.

46 Participation in the health insurance program described in this section is voluntary for
47 vendors which contract to provide human service with the following departments of the
48 Commonwealth: the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Department of Mental
49 Health, the Department of Mental Retardation, the Department of Social Services, the
50 Department of Transitional Assistance, the Department of Youth Services, the Disabled Persons
51 Protection Commission, the Division of Employment & Training, the Division of Medical

52 Assistance, the Executive Office for Elder Affairs, the Executive Office of Health and Human
53 Services, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation
54 Commission and the Office of Child Care Services. This section does not apply to individuals or
55 families which contract directly with the Department of Social Services or the Office of Child
56 Care Services to provide foster care or in-home family daycare. This section also does not apply
57 to individuals who enter into contracts with said departments of the Commonwealth as
58 consultants or independent contractors.”

59 SECTION 4. The commission shall develop a report setting forth plan designs for plans
60 established pursuant to chapter 32A, section 10F and appropriate administrative mechanisms for
61 said plans, with the costs associated with both the benefits provided under said plans and
62 administration, and shall file the report with the house and senate committees on ways and means
63 no later than July 1, 2005.