

SENATE No. 1899

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan L. Moran

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 to increase health insurance affordability for small business.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>

SENATE No. 1899

By Ms. Moran, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1899) of Susan L. Moran and Michael O. Moore to increase health insurance affordability for small business. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to increase health insurance affordability for small business.

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: Subsection (f) of section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the second, third, and fourth
3 paragraphs, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraphs:-

4 Any business which (a) has 26 or more full-time equivalent employees unrelated to its
5 owners or partners but no more than 50 of such employees calculated on an average annual basis,
6 (b) makes qualifying health insurance premium expenditures for a health insurance plan covering
7 its employees in each year, and (c) the average income of full-time equivalent employees is at or
8 below \$57,000 per year, indexed annually for inflation beginning in the year 2021 shall be
9 allowed a credit against its income tax due under this chapter in any year in which
10 unemployment in the commonwealth meets or exceeds 5 per cent and the following year
11 thereafter.

12 The amount of such credit in the tax year in which it is taken shall be 15 per cent of the
13 entire amount of the qualifying health insurance premium expenditure made by such business in
14 such tax year. To qualify for such credits, the health insurance premium expenditure of such
15 business must equal at least 50 per cent of the total cost of the premiums for such health
16 insurance plan and such health insurance plan must be available to all of the full-time employees
17 of such business. For the purposes of this section, "unrelated" shall mean not having the familial
18 relationship of spouse, mother, father, or child.

19 SECTION 2: Chapter 176J, of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
20 inserting after section 6 the following section:-

21 Section 6A. Review of small business health insurance affordability and cooperatives

22 The commissioner shall evaluate the effectiveness of purchasing cooperatives in
23 increasing the affordability of health insurance premiums, current impact of health insurance
24 costs on small businesses, and recommendations for improved affordability and small business
25 leverage in insurance purchasing. The commissioner must include representation from a diverse
26 set of small businesses in its evaluation. The commissioner shall report its findings and
27 recommendations biannually. Such report shall be filed with the clerk of the senate on or before
28 the first day of July with the findings of the task force evaluations as previously outlined and
29 such report shall contain analysis of the effectiveness of purchasing cooperatives in increasing
30 the affordability of health insurance premiums, current impact of health insurance costs on small
31 businesses, and recommendations for improving affordability and small business leverage in
32 health insurance purchasing.

33 SECTION 3: This act shall take effect upon its passage.