

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 275, L.D. 353, Bill, "An Act to Permit Foster Parents to Purchase Group Health Insurance"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, first ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 776, §1, is further amended to read:

A group health plan is available to state employees and other eligible persons, subject to the following provisions.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1, ¶G, as amended by PL 1997, c. 652, §1 and affected by §4, is further amended to read:

G. Subject to subsection 1-A, employees in any of the categories denominated in paragraphs A to F-1 and paragraph F-3 who:

(1) On April 26, 1968, have retired and who were covered under group health plans that by virtue of Public Law 1967, chapter 543 were terminated;

(2) After April 26, 1968, retire and who on the date of their retirement are currently enrolled in this group health plan as employees;

(3) After December 2, 1986, and after reaching normal retirement age, cease to be members of the Legislature

2 and are recipients of retirement allowances from the
Maine State Retirement System based upon creditable
4 service as teachers, as defined by section 17001,
subsection 42. This paragraph also applies to former
6 members who were members on December 2, 1986;

8 (4) After December 2, 1986, and not yet normal
retirement age, cease to be members of the Legislature
and are recipients of retirement allowances from the
10 Maine State Retirement System based upon creditable
service as teachers, as defined by section 17001,
12 subsection 42. This paragraph also applies to former
members who were members on December 2, 1986; or

14 (5) After January 1, 1999, terminate employment under
16 which they were eligible for the group health plan but
do not retire at that time and who satisfy the
18 requirements of subsection 1-A, paragraph D or
paragraph E; and

20 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1, ¶H,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 80,
22 §3, is amended to read:

24 H. A blind person operating a vending facility pursuant to
Title 26, section 1418-F under the direction of the
26 Department of Labor, Division for the Blind and Visually
Impaired, ; and

28 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1, ¶I** is enacted to read:

30 I. Any licensed foster parent caring for a child or
32 children in the foster parent's residence whose care is
34 reimbursed through the Department of Human Services for the
36 period during which the child or children are in that foster
parent's care.

38 **Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§7,** as repealed and replaced by PL
1997, c. 763, §1 and affected by §7, is amended to read:

40 **7. Payment by State.** Except as otherwise provided in this
subsection, the State, through the commission, shall pay 100% of
42 only the employee's share of the individual premium for the
standard plan identified and offered by the commission and
44 available to the employee as authorized by the commission, except
for Legislators, for whom the State shall pay 50% of the health
46 plan premium for dependent coverage. For any person appointed to
a position after November 1, 1981 who is employed less than full
48 time, the State shall pay a share of the employee's share reduced
pro rata to reflect the reduced number of work hours. The State
50 may not pay any portion of the health plan premium for a blind

2 person eligible for the group health plan under subsection 1,
3 paragraph H or for a licensed foster parent eligible for the
4 group health plan under subsection 1, paragraph I.

6 For persons who were first employed before July 1, 1991, the
7 State shall pay 100% of only the retiree's share of the premiums
8 for the standard plan identified and offered by the commission
9 and available to the retiree, as authorized by the commission for
10 persons who were previously eligible for this health plan
11 pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A and who have subsequently
12 become eligible pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph G.

14 For persons who were first employed by the State after July 1,
15 1991, the State shall pay a pro rata share portion of only the
16 retiree's share of the premiums for the standard plan identified
17 and offered by the commission and available to the retiree, as
18 authorized by the commission for persons who were previously
19 eligible for this health plan pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph
20 A and who have subsequently become eligible pursuant to
21 subsection 1, paragraph G based on the total number of years of
22 participation in the group health plan prior to retirement as
23 follows:

24 Years of Participation	State Portion
26 10 or more years	100% group 27 health plan 28 premium
30 9 but less than 10 years	90% group 31 health plan 32 premium
34 8 but less than 9 years	80% group 35 health plan 36 premium
38 7 but less than 8 years	70% group 39 health plan 40 premium
42 6 but less than 7 years	60% group 41 health plan 42 premium
44 5 but less than 6 years	50% group 43 health plan 44 premium
46 Less than 5 years	No contribution

46 Pursuant to Title 20-A, section 12722, subsection 5, this
47 subsection applies to participants in the defined contribution
48 plan offered by the Maine Technical College System Board of
49 Trustees under Title 20-A, section 12722.'

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FISCAL NOTE

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The state employee health insurance program will incur minor additional administrative costs associated with making foster parents who are caring for children whose care is being reimbursed by the Department of Human Services eligible for the group health plan for State employees at the foster parents' expense. These costs can be absorbed by the state employee health insurance program utilizing existing budgeted resources.

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SUMMARY

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This amendment makes licensed foster parents currently caring for children whose care is reimbursed by the Department of Human Services eligible for coverage under the group health plan for State employees. The premiums for coverage must be paid by the foster parent. The amendment also clarifies that a foster parent is eligible for coverage only during the periods in which the foster parent is caring for a child in that foster parent's home.

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SPONSORED BY:

(Senator LaFOUNTAIN)

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COUNTY: York

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