

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1576

S.P. 536

In Senate, April 14, 2003

**An Act To Provide Group Health Insurance Coverage to Maine  
Citizens Eligible for Assistance Under the Federal Trade  
Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President DAGGETT of Kennebec. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)  
Cosponsored by Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner and  
Senators: CATHCART of Penobscot, DAVIS of Piscataquis, GAGNON of Kennebec,  
STANLEY of Penobscot, TREAT of Kennebec, WOODCOCK of Franklin, Representative:  
BRUNO of Raymond.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

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6           Whereas, workers displaced by foreign trade competition face  
hardship in obtaining affordable, comprehensive health care  
coverage for themselves and their dependents; and

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10           Whereas, the federal government has created a program of  
health coverage tax credits to assist such workers in the  
purchase of health care coverage; and

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14           Whereas, this legislation is necessary to facilitate the  
implementation of the federal program; and

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18           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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22           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

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**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

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28           11. Coverage for persons eligible under federal Trade  
Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002. The Department of  
30           Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Employee  
Health and Benefits may provide, through a qualified insurance  
32           company, a group health plan product for individuals certified to  
receive federal assistance in paying for health coverage under  
34           the terms of the health coverage tax credit program within the  
federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002, Public  
36           Law 107-210. Certification of eligibility will be made by the  
Department of Labor. Individuals may enroll eligible  
38           dependents. Individuals eligible for enrollment in this group  
health plan remain eligible for enrollment and coverage through  
40           the duration of their federal trade adjustment assistance  
eligibility and for one month after their federal trade  
adjustment assistance eligibility status ends.

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44           Any person who is receiving a benefit payment from the federal  
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and who has attained the age  
46           of 55, but who is not eligible for Medicare benefits, may also  
enroll in the group health plan. These individuals may enroll  
eligible dependents.

48

50           Premium rates must be established to reflect the costs of  
providing insurance coverage. Premium payments must be provided  
by the United States Department of Labor and individual

2 enrollees. The division may accept any funds allocated under the  
3 federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002 and other  
4 sources in order to pay premiums and to administer the program.

6 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
7 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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9  
10 **SUMMARY**

11 This bill makes group health insurance coverage available to  
12 certain displaced workers, retirees and their dependents who are  
13 eligible to receive federal health insurance subsidy payments  
14 under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002.