

By Mr. Corazzini of Shrewsbury, petition of Leo R. Corazzini and another relative to making certain group insurance coverage available to certain persons. Insurance.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six.

AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN GROUP INSURANCE COVERAGE AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN PERSONS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Whenever any individual who is a member of any group  
2 hospital, surgical or medical insurance plan becomes ineligible for  
3 continued participation in such plan for any reason including  
4 death, the benefits of such plan shall be available at the same  
5 group rate to the individual, the surviving spouse and the  
6 dependents covered by the group plan, for an extension period of  
7 thirty-nine weeks or until such member, surviving spouse or  
8 dependent becomes eligible for benefits under another group  
9 plan, whichever occurs first. The individual, surviving spouse or  
10 dependent shall elect to continue participation in the group plan  
11 within thirty days after the member becomes ineligible to  
12 participate. The member, surviving spouse or dependent shall be  
13 responsible for payment of premiums to the employer or  
14 policyholder throughout the extension period. Upon termination  
15 of the extension period, the member, surviving spouse or  
16 dependent shall be entitled to exercise any option which is  
17 provided in the group plan to elect a converted policy. After  
18 timely receipt of the premium payment from the individual or  
19 surviving spouse, if the employer fails to make payment to the  
20 insurer or hospital or medical service corporation with the result

21 that coverage is terminated, the employer shall be liable for  
22 benefits to the same extent as the insurer or hospital or medical  
23 service corporation would have been liable if coverage had not  
24 been terminated.

25 The provisions of this act shall apply to group policies issued  
26 pursuant to chapters thirty-two A and thirty-two B of the General  
27 Laws.