

HOUSE No. 2204

By Mr. LaFontaine of Gardner, petition of Raymond M. LaFontaine, Theodore J. Aleixo, Jr., and Robert J. Rohan relative to extending health benefits for certain persons. Insurance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT EXTENDING HEALTH BENEFITS FOR 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 SECTION 1. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 47C the following section:—
3 *Section 47D.* Any blanket or general policy of insurance
4 described in subdivision (A), (C), or (D) of section one hundred
5 and ten which is delivered or issued for delivery or subsequently
6 renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policy holder,
7 within or without the commonwealth, or any policy of accident
8 and sickness insurance as described in section one hundred and
9 eight which provides hospital expense and surgical expense
10 insurance and which is delivered or issued for delivery or
11 subsequently renewed by agreement between the insurer and the
12 policy holder in this commonwealth or any employees' health and
13 welfare fund, which provides hospital expense and surgical
14 benefits and which is promulgated or renewed to any person or
15 group of persons in this commonwealth shall offer the same
16 coverage to an unmarried woman and an unmarried woman
17 dependent of a policy holder or beneficiary of a fund as that
18 provided for a married woman for expense arising from
19 pregnancy. Each such policy or fund shall also provide the same
20 coverage for the child of an unmarried mother or unmarried
21 mother dependent of a policy holder or beneficiary of a fund as
22 that provided for the child of any policy holder choosing
23 dependent family coverage.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 8B the following section: —
3 *Section 8C.* Any contract between a subscriber and the
4 corporation under an individual or group hospital service plan
5 which shall be delivered or issued or subsequently renewed for
6 delivery shall offer as benefits to all individual subscribers and
7 members within the commonwealth, the same coverage to an
8 unmarried woman and an unmarried woman dependent of a
9 contract holder as that provided for a married woman for expense
10 arising from pregnancy. Each such contract shall also provide the
11 same coverage for the child of an unmarried mother or unmarried
12 mother dependent of a contract holder as that provided for the
13 child of any contract holder choosing dependent family coverage.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 4B the following section: —
3 *Section 4C.* Any subscription certificate under an individual or
4 group medical service agreement which shall be delivered or issued
5 for delivery or subsequently renewed in this commonwealth shall
6 offer as benefits to all individual subscribers and members within
7 the commonwealth the same coverage to an unmarried woman and
8 an unmarried woman dependent of a subscription certificate
9 holder as that provided for a married woman for expense arising
10 from pregnancy. Each such subscription certificate shall also
11 provide the same coverage for the child of an unmarried mother or
12 unmarried mother dependent of a subscription certificate holder as
13 that provided for the child of any subscription certificate holder
14 choosing dependent family coverage.

1 SECTION 4. Section two, three, and four of this act shall apply
2 to all policies, contracts, and certificates referred to therein issued
3 on or after January first, nineteen hundred and seventy-six.