

By Mr. Kenefick of Lowell, petition of Archibald E. Kenefick for legislation to extend contributory group hospital, surgical, medical insurance to elderly persons and their dependents retired from the service of certain counties, cities, towns and districts. Insurance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two.

AN ACT TO EXTEND CONTRIBUTORY GROUP HOSPITAL, SURGICAL, MEDICAL INSURANCE TO ELDERLY PERSONS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS RETIRED FROM THE SERVICE OF CERTAIN COUNTIES, CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS.

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. Section 2 of chapter 32A of the General Laws
2 as most recently amended by chapter 516 of the acts of 1959
3 is further amended by adding after paragraph (e) the follow-
4 ing paragraph: —

5 (f) "Elderly Governmental Retirees", employees of counties,
6 cities, towns and districts retired prior to the effective date of
7 contracts or agreements issued under chapter thirty-two B who
8 are receiving a pension or retirement allowance through the
9 respective retirement system, except "teachers" as defined in
10 section one of chapter thirty-two.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 32A is amended by adding after
2 section 11 the following section: —

3 *Section 12.* The commission shall negotiate with and purchase
4 on such terms as it deems to be in the best interest of the com-
5 monwealth and the elderly governmental retirees and their de-
6 pendants from one or more insurance companies or non-profit
7 hospital or medical service corporations a policy or policies of
8 group general or blanket insurance providing hospital, surgical

9 and medical benefits for said retirees and their dependents, or,
10 may make available the same hospital, surgical, medical benefits
11 in effect for active employees and their dependents as provided
12 in section six; and shall execute all agreements or contracts per-
13 taining to said policies or any amendments thereto for and on
14 behalf and in the name of the commonwealth, for a period not
15 to exceed five years; provided, however, that the portion of
16 the cost of the premium per month to be borne by the common-
17 wealth shall not exceed the estimated monthly cost for which
18 funds have been appropriated by the general court for the then
19 current fiscal year.

20 (a) The commission shall determine the amount of said pre-
21 mium which may be the entire average group premium for
22 hospital, surgical and medical benefits provided under section
23 six, or a premium computed on a basis considered by said com-
24 mission to be equitable in relation to all persons insured under
25 this chapter.

26 (b) With respect to any period of insurance which is in effect
27 for the elderly governmental retiree, there shall be withheld
28 from each monthly payment of retirement allowance fifty per
29 cent of the premium for such insurance and the commonwealth
30 shall contribute the remaining fifty per cent of the said premium.

31 (c) The commonwealth shall contribute a subsidy, as de-
32 termined by the commission, equal to the annual excess of
33 claim loss, if any, sustained through the claim experience of
34 these insureds and said subsidy shall be paid by the state treas-
35 urer to the carrier or carriers upon proper authorization by the
36 commission.

37 (d) Where federal funds are made available for this purpose,
38 the commission shall reimburse the commonwealth for expendi-
39 tures made in accordance with (a) and (b) above and section
40 ten.

41 (e) Each elderly governmental retiree to whom this chapter
42 applies shall furnish the commission, in such form as it shall
43 prescribe, such information as is necessary to insure himself,
44 or himself and his dependents under the hospital, surgical, medi-
45 cal benefits herein provided.

46 (f) Upon the death of said retiree the surviving spouse may
47 continue the group hospital, surgical, medical insurance as pro-
48 vided under section eleven.

49 (g) All amounts withheld from the retiree's pension or allow-
50 ance through the retirement system established in the county,
51 city, town, or district shall be forwarded by the responsible
52 authority to the commission. The commission shall make pay-
53 ment of all sums due the carrier or carriers in accordance with
54 paragraph (c) of section eight.

1 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 32B of the General Laws
2 as most recently amended by chapter 337 of the acts of 1960
3 is further amended by adding after paragraph (h) the follow-
4 ing paragraph: —

5 (i) "Elderly Governmental Retirees," see section two (f) of
6 chapter thirty-two A.

1 SECTION 4. Said chapter 32B is further amended by inserting
2 after section 14 the following section: —

3 *Section 15.* A county by vote of the county commissioners, a
4 city having a Plan D or Plan E charter by majority vote of its
5 council, any other city by vote of its city council, approved by
6 the mayor, and a district by vote of the district at a district
7 meeting, may accept the provisions of this chapter. A certified
8 copy of such vote shall be filed with the commission at least
9 ninety days before hospital, surgical, medical insurance shall
10 become effective. A town may accept the provisions of this
11 chapter if a majority of the voters cast in answer to the following
12 question which shall be printed on the official ballot to be used
13 at an election in said town is in the affirmative: — Shall the
14 town authorize former town employees receiving a retirement
15 allowance hospital, surgical and medical insurance to be pro-
16 vided in accordance with the provisions of chapter 32A of the
17 General Laws with no expenditures for premiums by the town?

1 SECTION 5. The provisions of this act shall apply to any
2 public authority which has previously accepted the provisions
3 of chapter thirty-two B of the General Laws.

