

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of John A. Businger relative to providing for an optional disability insurance plan for all employees of the Commonwealth. Insurance.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PROVISION OF AN OPTIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE PLAN FOR ALL STATE EMPLOYEES.

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. The Commonwealth shall make available to all
2 state employees an optional short- and long-term disability
3 insurance plan with the full and total premium being paid by the
4 participating employee.

1 SECTION 2. Paragraph 1 of Section 4 of Chapter 32A of the
2 General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the following
3 paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following: —

4 The Commission shall negotiate and purchase, on such terms
5 as it deems to be in the best interest of the Commonwealth and
6 its employees from one or more insurance companies, savings
7 banks or non-profit hospital or medical service corporations, a
8 policy or policies of group life and accidental death and
9 dismemberment insurance covering persons in the service of the
10 Commonwealth and group general or blanket insurance providing
11 hospital, surgical, medical, dental, disability, and other health
12 insurance and medical benefits covering persons in the service of
13 the Commonwealth and their dependents, and shall execute all
14 agreements or contracts pertaining to said policies or any
15 amendments thereto for and on behalf and in the name of the
16 Commonwealth. The policy or policies providing hospital,
17 surgical, medical, dental, disability, and other health insurance

18 shall contain a condition that coverage for abortions shall only
19 be included if the abortion is determined by a panel, acceptable
20 to the commission of qualified physicians licensed in accordance
21 with law, to be necessary to prevent the death of a mother. Said
22 policy or policies shall define abortion to mean the knowing
23 destruction of the life of an unborn child or the intentional
24 expulsion or removal of an unborn child from the womb other
25 than for the principal purpose of producing a live birth or
26 removing a dead fetus. Said commission may negotiate a contract
27 for such term not exceeding five years as it may, in its discretion,
28 deem to be the most advantageous to the Commonwealth,
29 provided, however, that the portion of the cost of the premium
30 per month to be borne by the Commonwealth shall not exceed
31 the estimated monthly cost for which funds have been
32 appropriated by the General Court for the then-current fiscal year.

1 SECTION 3. Section 8 of Chapter 32A of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph: —

3 The optional disability insurance as cited in Chapter 32A,
4 Section 4 of the General Laws will be available to all state
5 employees, with the full and total premium being paid by the
6 participating employee. The employee may choose to have the
7 payment deducted through payroll deduction. If the participat-
8 ing employee is not receiving a paycheck due to illness or other
9 valid reason, he or she can continue to participate in the program
10 by paying directly for the insurance.