

SENATE. No. 2190

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, February 5, 1996.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was committed the House Bill concerning expanded insurance coverage (House, No. 2650), reports recommending that the same ought to pass, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate numbered 2190; and by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title:— “An Act concerning insurance coverage for employees of political subdivisions”.

For the committee,

CHERYL A. JACQUES.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

1 Chapter 32B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out section 15, as appearing in the 1994 Official Edition,
3 and inserting in place thereof the following section:—

4 Section 15. (a) Upon acceptance of this subsection by its appro-
5 priate public authority and subject to its appropriation, a govern-
6 mental unit may offer its employees a policy or policies of group
7 long-term disability insurance, group dental insurance or group
8 vision care insurance. A governmental unit may contract for such
9 insurance coverage benefits individually or through its member-
10 ship in a trust or joint purchase group as provided in section
11 twelve of this chapter. A governmental unit may elect to pay any
12 part or none of the premium cost for such insurance coverage ben-
13 efits for its employees and may bargain for such insurance cov-
14 erage benefits collectively.

15 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no govern-
16 mental unit may appropriate or expend public funds for the pay-
17 ment of premiums for group life insurance, group accidental death
18 and dismemberment insurance and group general or blanket hos-
19 pital, surgical, medical, dental and other health insurance for its
20 active or retired employees, or their dependents, unless such pay-
21 ments are authorized by section five of chapter forty, or unless
22 such payments are made, pursuant to an agreement of an employer
23 and an employee organization, to a health and welfare trust fund
24 agreement for the purposes of (i) providing health benefits not
25 otherwise provided to such employees by said governmental unit
26 under the provisions of this chapter or (ii) paying contributions by
27 said governmental unit toward premium costs or rates in excess of
28 the level of such premium cost or rate contributions otherwise pro-
29 vided for under the provisions of this chapter or (iii) providing
30 health benefits required under this chapter. This subsection shall
31 not apply to the county of Worcester.