

HOUSE No. 4134

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, August 28, 2003.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the message from His Excellency the Governor submitting requests for making appropriations for the fiscal year 2003 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 2021), reports, in part, that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4134) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOHN H. ROGERS.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PRESCRIPTION ADVANTAGE AND EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat
2 its purpose, which is to immediately extend the enrollment period
3 for the prescription advantage and early retirement incentive pro-
4 grams, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, neces-
5 sary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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 614 of chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003 is
2 hereby amended by striking out subsection (A)(i), and inserting in
3 place thereof the following subsection:—

4 (i) The open enrollment period which began on August 1, 2003
5 will expire on August 31, 2003. There shall also be an open
6 enrollment period from January 1, 2004 through January 31, 2004,
7 provided that the secretary of elder services may establish a cap
8 on the number of individuals enrolled during said open enrollment
9 period if the secretary certifies to the house and senate committees
10 on ways and means no later than December 1, 2003 that without
11 said cap and under the current benefit structure program costs are
12 projected to exceed the fiscal year 2004 appropriation set forth
13 within line item 9110-1455 of this act. A person will also be eli-
14 gible to enroll in the program at any time within a year of
15 reaching age 65. During the open enrollment period, individuals
16 shall be enrolled in the program in the order in which the program
17 receives their completed application.

1 SECTION 2. Said Section 614 of chapter 26 of the Acts of
2 2003 is hereby further amended by striking out, in the last sen-
3 tence of the first paragraph of subsection (B), the clause “Steps
4 that may be taken shall include, but not be limited to:” and
5 inserting in place thereof, the following clause:—

6 In addition to limiting open enrollment as provided in subsec-
7 tion (A)(i), steps that may be taken shall include, but not be lim-
8 ited to:

1 SECTION 3. Said section 614 of chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003
2 is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (B)(i) in its
3 entirety and inserting in place thereof, the following subsection:—

4 (i) Enrollment: A person will no longer be eligible to enroll in
5 the program at any time within a year of reaching age 65.

1 SECTION 4. Section 616 of Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2003 is
2 hereby amended by striking out the words “September 1, 2003” in
3 the first sentence of subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof
4 the words “September 8, 2003.”

