

By Representatives Honan of Boston and Gibson of Belmont, petition of Kevin G. Honan and other members of the House relative to the restoration of Medicaid benefits for welfare families returning to work. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO RESTORE MEDICAID BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES GOING FROM WELFARE TO WORK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding the following new section 1B:
3 Section 1B. The department shall establish a program of
4 medical benefits for those families and individuals who, due to
5 increased income from employment, lose eligibility for the
6 program of medical care and assistance administered by the
7 department in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security
8 Act and whose employer does not offer health care insurance;
9 provided, however, that such family's or individual's income
10 during the period of extended eligibility shall not exceed one
11 hundred and eighty-five percent of the non-farm income poverty
12 guidelines prescribed by the United States office of management
13 and budget. Benefits under such program shall be provided to such
14 families and individuals until the end of the twenty-fourth month
15 following the month in which such families or individuals lose
16 eligibility for said Title XIX benefits, so long as all eligibility
17 criteria are met. The department shall encourage families and
18 individuals eligible under this section to enroll in management
19 health care plans wherever practicable. For certain persons whose
20 employers offer health care insurance, but are otherwise eligible
21 for benefits under this section, the department may contribute to

22 the employee's cost, if any, of employer-provider health insurance.
 23 The department may also require eligible families and individuals
 24 to contribute to the cost of the benefits provided under this
 25 section.