



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6726

LCO No. 3554

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCILS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and
4 of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group
5 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for
6 (1) state employees, (2) members of the General Assembly who elect
7 coverage under such plan or plans, (3) employees of the Connecticut
8 Institute for Municipal Studies established by section 1-135, (4)
9 participants in an alternate retirement program who meet the service
10 requirements of section 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, (5)
11 anyone receiving benefits under section 5-144 or from any
12 state-sponsored retirement system, except the teachers' retirement
13 system and the municipal employees retirement system, (6) judges of
14 probate and Probate Court employees, (7) the surviving spouse, until
15 remarriage, and any dependent children until they reach the age of
16 eighteen, of a member of an organized local police department or a

17 constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties who dies as
18 the result of injuries received while acting within the scope of such
19 officer's or constable's employment and not as the result of illness or
20 natural causes, (8) employees of the Capital City Economic
21 Development Authority established by section 32-601, (9) employees of
22 regional emergency medical services councils established by section
23 19a-183, as amended by this act, and [(9)] (10) the surviving spouse
24 and dependent children of any employee of a municipality who dies
25 on or after October 1, 2000, as the result of injuries received while
26 acting within the scope of such employee's employment and not as the
27 result of illness or natural causes, and whose surviving spouse and
28 dependent children are not otherwise eligible for a group
29 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan. For purposes
30 of this subdivision, "employee" means any regular employee or
31 elective officer receiving pay from a municipality, and "municipality"
32 means any town, city, borough, school district, taxing district, fire
33 district, district department of health, probate district, housing
34 authority, regional work force development board established under
35 section 31-3k, flood commission or authority established by special act
36 or regional planning agency. The minimum benefits to be provided by
37 such plan or plans shall be substantially equal in value to the benefits
38 which each such employee or member of the General Assembly could
39 secure in such plan or plans on an individual basis on the preceding
40 first day of July. The state shall pay for each such employee and each
41 member of the General Assembly covered by such plan or plans the
42 portion of the premium charged for such member's or employee's
43 individual coverage and seventy per cent of the additional cost of the
44 form of coverage and such amount shall be credited to the total
45 premiums owed by such employee or member of the General
46 Assembly for the form of such member's or employee's coverage under
47 such plan or plans. On and after January 1, 1989, the state shall pay for
48 anyone receiving benefits from any such state-sponsored retirement
49 system one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged
50 for such member's or employee's individual coverage and one

51 hundred per cent of any additional cost for the form of coverage. The
52 balance of any premiums payable by an individual employee or by a
53 member of the General Assembly for the form of coverage shall be
54 deducted from the payroll by the State Comptroller. The total
55 premiums payable shall be remitted by the Comptroller to the
56 insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or
57 organizations providing the coverage. The amount of the state's
58 contribution per employee for a health maintenance organization
59 option shall be equal, in terms of dollars and cents, to the largest
60 amount of the contribution per employee paid for any other option
61 which is available to all eligible state employees included in the health
62 benefits plan, but shall not be required to exceed the amount of the
63 health maintenance organization premium.

64 Sec. 2. Section 19a-183 of the general statutes is repealed and the
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

66 (a) There shall be established an emergency medical services council
67 in each region. A region shall be composed of the towns so designated
68 by the commissioner. Opportunity for membership shall be available
69 to all appropriate representatives of emergency medical services
70 including, but not limited to, one representative from each of the
71 following: (1) Local governments; (2) fire and law enforcement
72 officials; (3) medical and nursing professions, including mental health,
73 paraprofessional and other allied health professionals; (4) providers of
74 ambulance services, at least one of which shall be a member of a
75 volunteer ambulance association; (5) institutions of higher education;
76 (6) federal agencies involved in the delivery of health care; and (7)
77 consumers. All emergency medical services councils, including those
78 in existence on July 1, 1974, shall submit to the commissioner
79 information concerning the organizational structure and council
80 bylaws for the commissioner's approval. The commissioner shall foster
81 the development of emergency medical services councils in each
82 region.

83 (b) Any paid employee of a regional emergency medical services
84 council may participate in a group hospitalization and medical and
85 surgical insurance plan under section 5-259, as amended by this act,
86 and in any workers compensation, professional liability or general
87 liability insurance coverage available to state employees. Any costs
88 associated with any such participation shall be paid by the regional
89 emergency medical services council.

90 (c) Funds provided by the state to the regional emergency medical
91 services councils shall, within available appropriations, include an
92 annual cost-of-living adjustment.

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure the proper operation of regional emergency medical services councils.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

PH

Joint Favorable C/R

APP