



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Raised Bill No. 6992**

LCO No. 4762

Referred to Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Introduced by:  
(LAB)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-290 of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subdivision (24) as follows:

3 (NEW) (24) "Small business" means a business entity, including its  
4 affiliates, that (A) is independently owned and operated, and (B)  
5 employs fewer than fifty full-time employees or has gross annual sales  
6 of less than five million dollars.

7 Sec. 2. Section 17b-292 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
8 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

9 (a) A child who resides in a household with a family income [which]  
10 that exceeds one hundred eighty-five per cent of the federal poverty  
11 level and does not exceed three hundred per cent of the federal  
12 poverty level may be eligible for subsidized benefits under the HUSKY  
13 Plan, Part B.

14 (b) A child who resides in a household with a family income over

15 three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level may be eligible for  
16 unsubsidized benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part B.

17 (c) Whenever a court or family support magistrate orders a  
18 noncustodial parent to provide health insurance for a child, such  
19 parent may provide for coverage under the HUSKY Plan, Part B.

20 (d) A child who has been determined to be eligible for benefits  
21 under either the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B shall remain eligible for  
22 said plan for a period of twelve months from such child's  
23 determination of eligibility unless the child attains the age of nineteen  
24 years or is no longer a resident of the state.

25 (e) Any person employed by a small business located in this state  
26 and such person's dependents may be eligible for unsubsidized  
27 benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part B, provided the small business  
28 shall contribute at least eighty per cent of the cost of such benefits and  
29 the employee shall contribute not more than ten per cent of the  
30 employee's annual household income.

31 (f) Any resident of this state (1) who resides in a household with a  
32 family income that does not exceed one hundred eighty-five per cent  
33 of the federal poverty level, and (2) without access to affordable health  
34 insurance coverage shall be eligible for unsubsidized benefits under  
35 the HUSKY Plan, Part A. For purposes of this subsection, "affordable  
36 health insurance coverage" means coverage for which total health care  
37 premiums do not exceed ten per cent of household gross income.

38 ~~[(e)]~~ (g) To the extent allowed under federal law, the commissioner  
39 shall not pay for services or durable medical equipment under the  
40 HUSKY Plan, Part B if the enrollee has other insurance coverage for  
41 the services or such equipment.

42 ~~[(f)]~~ (h) A newborn child who otherwise meets the eligibility criteria  
43 for the HUSKY Plan, Part B shall be eligible for benefits retroactive to  
44 ~~[his]~~ the date of birth, provided an application is filed on behalf of the

45 child within thirty days of such date.

46 [(g)] (i) The commissioner shall implement presumptive eligibility  
47 for children applying for Medicaid. Such presumptive eligibility  
48 determinations shall be in accordance with applicable federal law and  
49 regulations. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
50 with chapter 54, to establish standards and procedures for the  
51 designation of organizations as qualified entities to grant presumptive  
52 eligibility. In establishing such regulations, the commissioner shall  
53 ensure the representation of state-wide and local organizations that  
54 provide services to children of all ages in each region of the state.

55 [(h)] (j) The commissioner shall enter into a contract with an entity  
56 to be a single point of entry servicer for applicants and enrollees under  
57 the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. The servicer shall jointly market  
58 both Part A and Part B together as the HUSKY Plan. Such servicer shall  
59 develop and implement public information and outreach activities  
60 with community programs.

61 [(i)] (k) To the extent permitted by federal law, the single point of  
62 entry servicer may be one of the entities authorized to grant  
63 presumptive eligibility under the HUSKY Plan, Part A.

64 [(j)] (l) The single point of entry servicer shall send an application  
65 and supporting documents to the commissioner for determination of  
66 eligibility of a child who resides in a household with a family income  
67 of one hundred eighty-five per cent or less of the federal poverty level.  
68 The servicer shall enroll eligible beneficiaries in the applicant's choice  
69 of managed care plan.

70 [(k)] (m) Not more than twelve months after the determination of  
71 eligibility and annually thereafter, the servicer shall determine if the  
72 child continues to be eligible for the plan. The servicer shall mail a  
73 form to each participant in the plan for the purposes of obtaining  
74 information to make a determination on eligibility. The determination  
75 of eligibility shall be coordinated with health plan open enrollment

76 periods.

77 [(l)] (n) The commissioner shall implement the HUSKY Plan, Part B  
78 while in the process of adopting necessary policies and procedures in  
79 regulation form in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-10.

80 [(m)] (o) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
81 with chapter 54, to establish residency requirements and income  
82 eligibility for participation in the HUSKY Plan, Part B and procedures  
83 for a simplified mail-in application process.

84 Sec. 3. (NEW) Each business firm shall be subject to a payroll tax in  
85 an amount equal to eighty per cent of the coverage costs for all of its  
86 employees and any dependents of such employees who participate in  
87 the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B. There shall be allowed as a credit  
88 against the tax imposed by this section an amount equal to one  
89 hundred per cent of that portion of such tax which is allocable to (1) a  
90 small business firm, as defined in section 17b-290 of the general  
91 statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) any business firm that  
92 provides health insurance coverage to its employees and the  
93 dependents of such employees and pays at least eighty per cent of such  
94 health insurance coverage costs.

95 Sec. 4. (NEW) The Commissioner of Social Services shall apply for  
96 all available federal funding to implement sections 1 and 2 of this act.

**Statement of Purpose:**

To ensure that employees of small businesses have access to health insurance coverage.

*[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.]*