



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**Amendment**

LCO No. 5449

\*SB0000405449SD0\*

Offered by:

SEN. PRAGUE, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 4

File No. 214

Cal. No. 162

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUALS AGE SIXTY-TWO AND OVER."**

1 In line 23, after "that" and before "if" insert "(A)"

2 In line 28, after "Act" and before the semicolon insert ", and (B)  
3 continuation of coverage for a state employee under a plan procured  
4 under section 5-259, as amended by this act, on the basis of such layoff,  
5 reduction of hours, leave of absence or termination of employment,  
6 shall be provided in accordance with section 5-259, as amended by this  
7 act"

8 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
9 internal references accordingly:

10 "Sec. 501. Subsection (a) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is  
11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
12 *October 1, 2003*):

13 (a) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and  
14 of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group  
15 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for  
16 (1) state employees, (2) members of the General Assembly who elect  
17 coverage under such plan or plans, (3) participants in an alternate  
18 retirement program who meet the service requirements of section  
19 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, (4) anyone receiving benefits  
20 under section 5-144 or from any state-sponsored retirement system,  
21 except the teachers' retirement system and the municipal employees  
22 retirement system, (5) judges of probate and Probate Court employees,  
23 (6) the surviving spouse, until remarriage, and any dependent children  
24 until they reach the age of eighteen, of a member of an organized local  
25 police department or a constable who performs criminal law  
26 enforcement duties who dies as the result of injuries received while  
27 acting within the scope of such officer's or constable's employment and  
28 not as the result of illness or natural causes, (7) employees of the  
29 Capital City Economic Development Authority established by section  
30 32-601, and (8) the surviving spouse and dependent children of any  
31 employee of a municipality who dies on or after October 1, 2000, as the  
32 result of injuries received while acting within the scope of such  
33 employee's employment and not as the result of illness or natural  
34 causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not  
35 otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical  
36 insurance plan. For purposes of this subdivision, "employee" means  
37 any regular employee or elective officer receiving pay from a  
38 municipality, and "municipality" means any town, city, borough,  
39 school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of  
40 health, probate district, housing authority, regional work force  
41 development board established under section 31-3k, flood commission  
42 or authority established by special act or regional planning agency.  
43 The minimum benefits to be provided by such plan or plans shall be  
44 substantially equal in value to the benefits which each such employee  
45 or member of the General Assembly could secure in such plan or plans  
46 on an individual basis on the preceding first day of July. The state shall  
47 pay for each such employee and each member of the General

48 Assembly covered by such plan or plans the portion of the premium  
49 charged for such member's or employee's individual coverage and  
50 seventy per cent of the additional cost of the form of coverage and  
51 such amount shall be credited to the total premiums owed by such  
52 employee or member of the General Assembly for the form of such  
53 member's or employee's coverage under such plan or plans. On and  
54 after January 1, 1989, the state shall pay for anyone receiving benefits  
55 from any such state-sponsored retirement system one hundred per  
56 cent of the portion of the premium charged for such member's or  
57 employee's individual coverage and one hundred per cent of any  
58 additional cost for the form of coverage. The balance of any premiums  
59 payable by an individual employee or by a member of the General  
60 Assembly for the form of coverage shall be deducted from the payroll  
61 by the State Comptroller. The total premiums payable shall be remitted  
62 by the Comptroller to the insurance company or companies or  
63 nonprofit organization or organizations providing the coverage. The  
64 amount of the state's contribution per employee for a health  
65 maintenance organization option shall be equal, in terms of dollars and  
66 cents, to the largest amount of the contribution per employee paid for  
67 any other option which is available to all eligible state employees  
68 included in the health benefits plan, but shall not be required to exceed  
69 the amount of the health maintenance organization premium. On and  
70 after October 1, 2003, the Comptroller shall provide the option for state  
71 employees to continue coverage under such plan (A) upon layoff,  
72 reduction of hours, leave of absence or termination of employment,  
73 other than as a result of death of the employee or as a result of the  
74 employee's "gross misconduct" as that term is used in 29 USC 1163(2);  
75 (B) until the employee is eligible for other group insurance or the  
76 employee is eligible for Medicare benefits under Title XVIII of the  
77 federal Social Security Act; and (C) provided such employee shall be  
78 required to pay one hundred two per cent of the entire premium at the  
79 group rate and the Comptroller shall not be required to continue  
80 coverage if such premium is not paid timely by the employee."