



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**Raised Bill No. 432**

LCO No. 1847

\*01847\_\_\_\_\_LAB\*

Referred to Committee on Labor and Public Employees

Introduced by:  
(LAB)

***AN ACT STUDYING EMPLOYERS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO EMPLOYEES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force  
2 to study the feasibility of establishing an employer-funded uniform  
3 state-wide health insurance plan for persons employed in this state  
4 whose employers do not procure for their employees a group  
5 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans.  
6 Such study shall include, but shall not be limited to, an examination of:  
7 (1) The level of benefits that should be available to employees under  
8 such a plan or plans; (2) costs associated with establishing and  
9 maintaining such a plan or plans; (3) the amount of employer  
10 contributions necessary to fund such a plan or plans; and (4) whether  
11 and to what extent employers who provide group hospitalization and  
12 medical and surgical insurance coverage to their employees should be  
13 exempt from contributing to such a plan or plans.

14 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

15 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

- 16 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 17 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
18 Representatives;
- 19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 20 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
21 Representatives;
- 22 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 23 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
24 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
25 relating to labor and public employees and insurance, or their  
26 designees;
- 27 (8) The Labor Commissioner and the Insurance Commissioner, or  
28 their designees;
- 29 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
30 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
31 of the General Assembly.
- 32 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
33 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
34 filled by the appointing authority.
- 35 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
36 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task  
37 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons  
38 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, to be held no later  
39 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- 40 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
41 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and  
42 public employees shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

43 (g) Not later than February 8, 2006, the task force shall submit a  
44 report on its findings, together with its recommendations, if any, for  
45 appropriate legislation, to the joint standing committees of the General  
46 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor and public  
47 employees and insurance, in accordance with the provisions of section  
48 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date  
49 that it submits such report or February 8, 2006, whichever is earlier.

50 (h) For purposes of this section, "employer" means a person engaged  
51 in business who has fifty or more employees, excluding the state and  
52 its political subdivisions, and "employee" means any person engaged  
53 in service to an employer in a business of the employer.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To study the feasibility of establishing an employer-funded state-wide health insurance plan for employees whose employers do not offer 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.]*