



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2006

LCO No. 3736

SB0001603736SD0

Offered by:

SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

SEN. HANDLEY, 4th Dist.
SEN. MCDONALD, 27th Dist.
SEN. PRAGUE, 19th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 16

File No. 257

Cal. No. 219

"AN ACT PROTECTING MUNICIPAL RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS."

1 In line 11, after the period insert the following:

2 "The Office of the Healthcare Advocate, established pursuant to
3 section 38a-1041 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, as
4 amended by this act, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
5 chapter 54 of the general statutes, establishing criteria to determine
6 whether group health insurance benefits have been diminished or
7 eliminated and whether benefits provided by an alternative insurance
8 carrier are at least equivalent to benefits previously provided to
9 retirees."

10 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
11 internal references accordingly:

12 "Sec. 501. Subsection (b) of section 38a-1041 of the 2006 supplement

13 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in
14 lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

15 (b) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate may:

16 (1) Assist health insurance consumers with managed care plan
17 selection by providing information, referral and assistance to
18 individuals about means of obtaining health insurance coverage and
19 services;

20 (2) Assist health insurance consumers to understand their rights and
21 responsibilities under managed care plans;

22 (3) Provide information to the public, agencies, legislators and
23 others regarding problems and concerns of health insurance
24 consumers and make recommendations for resolving those problems
25 and concerns;

26 (4) Assist consumers with the filing of complaints and appeals,
27 including filing appeals with a managed care organization's internal
28 appeal or grievance process and the external appeal process
29 established under section 38a-478n, as amended;

30 (5) Analyze and monitor the development and implementation of
31 federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies relating to health
32 insurance consumers and recommend changes it deems necessary;

33 (6) Facilitate public comment on laws, regulations and policies,
34 including policies and actions of health insurers;

35 (7) Ensure that health insurance consumers have timely access to the
36 services provided by the office;

37 (8) Review the health insurance records of a consumer who has
38 provided written consent for such review;

39 (9) Create and make available to employers a notice, suitable for
40 posting in the workplace, concerning the services that the Healthcare

41 Advocate provides;

42 (10) Establish a toll-free number, or any other free calling option, to
43 allow customer access to the services provided by the Healthcare
44 Advocate;

45 (11) Pursue administrative remedies on behalf of and with the
46 consent of any health insurance consumers;

47 (12) Adopt regulations, pursuant to chapter 54, to carry out the
48 provisions of sections 38a-1040 to 38a-1050, inclusive, as amended, and
49 section 1 of this act; and

50 (13) Take any other actions necessary to fulfill the purposes of
51 sections 38a-1040 to 38a-1050, inclusive, as amended."