



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 606

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 7382

House of Representatives, April 26, 2007

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROBATE COURT JUDGES AND EMPLOYEES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
5 section, [the] prior to July 1, 2007: (A) The Probate Court
6 Administration Fund established [in accordance with] under section
7 45a-82 [,] shall pay for each probate judge and Probate Court employee
8 not more than one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium
9 charged for his individual coverage and not more than fifty per cent of
10 any additional cost for his form of coverage, [. The] and (B) the
11 remainder of the premium for such coverage shall be paid by the
12 probate judge or Probate Court employee to the State Treasurer.
13 Payment shall be credited by the State Treasurer to the fund
14 established [by] under section 45a-82. The total premiums payable

15 shall be remitted by the Probate Court Administrator directly to the
 16 insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or
 17 organizations providing the coverage. On and after July 1, 2007, such
 18 coverage shall be provided to each probate judge and Probate Court
 19 employee under the same terms and conditions as are applicable to
 20 coverage provided to state employees under this section and shall be
 21 paid from funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

22 (2) The Probate Court Administrator shall [establish] issue
 23 regulations governing group hospitalization and medical and surgical
 24 insurance [in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of]
 25 pursuant to section 45a-77.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	5-259(g)

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits	GF - Cost	3,900,000	4,200,000
Probate Court	PCAF - Savings	3,300,000	3,600,000

Note: GF=General Fund; PCAF=Probate Court Administration Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires that health insurance coverage for probate judges and employees be paid from the General Fund in the same manner as state employees. The state cost associated with this change is \$3.9 million in FY 08 and \$4.2 million in FY 09 for the approximately 350 probate judges and employees. The savings to the Probate Court Administration Fund (PCAF) is \$3.3 million in FY 08 and \$3.6 million in FY 09. The savings to the PCAF is less than the cost to the state General Fund because the current premium share arrangement for probate judges and employees requires a higher employee premium share for certain forms of coverage than the state employee premium share agreement.

No funding for the cost associated with the state paying the health insurance coverage of probate judges and employees, as required by the bill, was included in the Budget, sHB 7077 as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to medical cost inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 7382*****AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROBATE COURT JUDGES AND EMPLOYEES.*****SUMMARY:**

Beginning July 1, 2007, this bill requires that health insurance coverage be provided to each probate judge and Probate Court employee under the same terms and conditions that apply to coverage provided to state employees. It also requires that, effective July 1, 2007, payment of health insurance premiums for probate judges and probate court employees be made from the General Fund instead of from the Probate Court Administration Fund. The latter fund contains money collected by probate courts as fees and assessed costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

BACKGROUND***Current Health Care Plans***

Currently, probate judges and employees are offered the same health insurance plans as state employees, but some are charged higher premiums.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 40 Nay 0 (04/11/2007)