



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 6055

LCO No. 5459

05459HB06055INS

Referred to Committee on Insurance and Real Estate

Introduced by:
(INS)

**AN ACT EXTENDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 38a-497 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 Every individual health insurance policy providing coverage of the
4 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (6), (10), (11) and (12) of
5 section 38a-469 delivered, issued for delivery, amended or renewed in
6 this state on or after [October 1, 1982] January 1, 2008, shall provide
7 that coverage of a child shall terminate no earlier than the policy
8 anniversary date on or after whichever of the following occurs first, the
9 date on which the child marries, ceases to be a dependent of the
10 policyholder, attains the age of [nineteen if the child is not a full-time
11 student at an accredited institution, or attains the age of twenty-three if
12 the child is a full-time student at an accredited institution] twenty-five,
13 provided the child does not have access to employer-sponsored health
14 insurance coverage through his or her own place of employment.

15 Sec. 2. Section 38a-554 of the general statutes is repealed and the

16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

17 A group comprehensive health care plan shall contain the minimum
18 standard benefits prescribed in section 38a-553 and shall also conform
19 in substance to the requirements of this section.

20 (a) The plan shall be one under which the individuals eligible to be
21 covered include: (1) Each eligible employee; (2) the spouse of each
22 eligible employee, who shall be considered a dependent for the
23 purposes of this section; and (3) dependent unmarried children, who
24 are under the age of [nineteen or are full-time students under the age
25 of twenty-three at an accredited institution of higher learning] twenty-
26 five if they do not have access to employer-sponsored health insurance
27 coverage through their own place of employment.

28 (b) The plan shall provide the option to continue coverage under
29 each of the following circumstances until the individual is eligible for
30 other group insurance, except as provided in subdivisions (3) and (4)
31 of this subsection: (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this section,
32 upon layoff, reduction of hours, leave of absence, or termination of
33 employment, other than as a result of death of the employee or as a
34 result of such employee's "gross misconduct" as that term is used in 29
35 USC 1163(2), continuation of coverage for such employee and such
36 employee's covered dependents for the periods set forth for such event
37 under federal extension requirements established by the federal
38 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-272),
39 as amended from time to time, (COBRA), except that if such reduction
40 of hours, leave of absence or termination of employment results from
41 an employee's eligibility to receive Social Security income,
42 continuation of coverage for such employee and such employee's
43 covered dependents until midnight of the day preceding such person's
44 eligibility for benefits under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act; (2)
45 upon the death of the employee, continuation of coverage for the
46 covered dependents of such employee for the periods set forth for such
47 event under federal extension requirements established by the

48 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-272),
49 as amended from time to time, (COBRA); (3) regardless of the
50 employee's or dependent's eligibility for other group insurance, during
51 an employee's absence due to illness or injury, continuation of
52 coverage for such employee and such employee's covered dependents
53 during continuance of such illness or injury or for up to twelve months
54 from the beginning of such absence; (4) regardless of an individual's
55 eligibility for other group insurance, upon termination of the group
56 plan, coverage for covered individuals who were totally disabled on
57 the date of termination shall be continued without premium payment
58 during the continuance of such disability for a period of twelve
59 calendar months following the calendar month in which the plan was
60 terminated, provided claim is submitted for coverage within one year
61 of the termination of the plan; (5) the coverage of any covered
62 individual shall terminate: (A) As to a child, the plan shall provide the
63 option for said child to continue coverage for the longer of the
64 following periods: (i) At the end of the month following the month in
65 which the child marries, ceases to be dependent on the employee or
66 attains the age of [nineteen] twenty-five, whichever occurs first,
67 [except that if the child is a full-time student at an accredited
68 institution, the coverage may be continued while the child remains
69 unmarried and a full-time student, but not beyond the month
70 following the month in which the child attains the age of twenty-three]
71 provided such child does not have access to employer-sponsored
72 health insurance coverage through his or her own place of
73 employment. If on the date specified for termination of coverage on a
74 dependent child, the child is unmarried and incapable of self-
75 sustaining employment by reason of mental or physical handicap and
76 chiefly dependent upon the employee for support and maintenance,
77 the coverage on such child shall continue while the plan remains in
78 force and the child remains in such condition, provided proof of such
79 handicap is received by the carrier within thirty-one days of the date
80 on which the child's coverage would have terminated in the absence of
81 such incapacity. The carrier may require subsequent proof of the

82 child's continued incapacity and dependency but not more often than
83 once a year thereafter, or (ii) for the periods set forth for such child
84 under federal extension requirements established by the Consolidated
85 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-272), as amended
86 from time to time, (COBRA); (B) as to the employee's spouse, at the
87 end of the month following the month in which a divorce, court-
88 ordered annulment or legal separation is obtained, whichever is
89 earlier, except that the plan shall provide the option for said spouse to
90 continue coverage for the periods set forth for such events under
91 federal extension requirements established by the Consolidated
92 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-272), as amended
93 from time to time, (COBRA); and (C) as to the employee or dependent
94 who is sixty-five years of age or older, as of midnight of the day
95 preceding such person's eligibility for benefits under Title XVIII of the
96 federal Social Security Act; (6) as to any other event listed as a
97 "qualifying event" in 29 USC 1163, as amended from time to time,
98 continuation of coverage for such periods set forth for such event in 29
99 USC 1162, as amended from time to time, provided such plan may
100 require the individual whose coverage is to be continued to pay up to
101 the percentage of the applicable premium as specified for such event in
102 29 USC 1162, as amended from time to time. Any continuation of
103 coverage required by this section except subdivision (4) or (6) of this
104 subsection may be subject to the requirement, on the part of the
105 individual whose coverage is to be continued, that such individual
106 contribute that portion of the premium the individual would have
107 been required to contribute had the employee remained an active
108 covered employee, except that the individual may be required to pay
109 up to one hundred two per cent of the entire premium at the group
110 rate if coverage is continued in accordance with subdivision (1), (2) or
111 (5) of this subsection. The employer shall not be legally obligated by
112 sections 38a-505, 38a-546 and 38a-551 to 38a-559, inclusive, to pay such
113 premium if not paid timely by the employee.

114 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with

115 chapter 54, concerning coordination of benefits between the plan and
116 other health insurance plans.

117 (d) The plan shall make available to Connecticut residents, in
118 addition to any other conversion privilege available, a conversion
119 privilege under which coverage shall be available immediately upon
120 termination of coverage under the group plan. The terms and benefits
121 offered under the conversion benefits shall be at least equal to the
122 terms and benefits of an individual comprehensive health care plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2007	38a-497
Sec. 2	October 1, 2007	38a-554

Statement of Purpose:

To extend health insurance coverage for a dependent child until age twenty-five.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. SCHOFIELD, 16th Dist.

H.B. 6055