



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7238

LCO No. 4900



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (i) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2019*):

4 (i) The Comptroller may provide for coverage of employees of
5 municipalities, nonprofit corporations, community action agencies and
6 small employers and individuals eligible for a health coverage tax
7 credit, retired members or members of an association for personal care
8 assistants under the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of this
9 section, provided: (1) Participation by each municipality, nonprofit
10 corporation, community action agency, small employer, eligible
11 individual, retired member or association for personal care assistants
12 shall be on a voluntary basis; (2) where an employee organization
13 represents employees of a municipality, nonprofit corporation,
14 community action agency or small employer, participation in a plan or
15 plans to be procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be by

16 mutual agreement of the municipality, nonprofit corporation,
17 community action agency or small employer and the employee
18 organization only and neither party may submit the issue of
19 participation to binding arbitration except by mutual agreement if
20 such binding arbitration is available; (3) no group of employees shall
21 be refused entry into the plan by reason of past or future health care
22 costs or claim experience; (4) rates paid by the state for its employees
23 under subsection (a) of this section are not adversely affected by this
24 subsection; (5) administrative costs to the plan or plans provided
25 under this subsection shall [not be paid by the state] be paid by the
26 participating entities; (6) participation in the plan or plans in an
27 amount determined by the state shall be for the duration of the period
28 of the plan or plans, or for such other period as mutually agreed by the
29 municipality, nonprofit corporation, community action agency, small
30 employer, retired member or association for personal care assistants
31 and the Comptroller; (7) the General Assembly may allocate funds to
32 offset any financial cost or risk associated with administering the plan
33 or plans; (8) the Comptroller shall administer the plan or plans within
34 available appropriations; (9) the Comptroller shall establish
35 procedures to determine (A) eligibility requirements, (B) enrollment
36 procedures, for the plan or plans, (C) the duration of requirements
37 regarding payment, and (D) procedures regarding withdrawal from
38 and termination of the plan or plans; and [(7)] (10) nothing in this
39 section or section 12-202a, 38a-551 or 38a-556 shall be construed as
40 requiring a participating insurer or health care center to issue
41 individual policies to individuals eligible for a health coverage tax
42 credit. The coverage provided under this section may be referred to as
43 the "Municipal Employee Health Insurance Plan". The Comptroller
44 may arrange and procure for the employees and eligible individuals
45 under this subsection health benefit plans that vary from the plan or
46 plans procured under subsection (a) of this section. Notwithstanding
47 any provision of part V of chapter 700c, the coverage provided under
48 this subsection may be offered on either a fully underwritten or risk-
49 pooled basis at the discretion of the Comptroller. For the purposes of
50 this subsection, (A) "municipality" means any town, city, borough,

51 school district, taxing district, fire district, district department of
52 health, probate district, housing authority, regional work force
53 development board established under section 31-3k, regional
54 emergency telecommunications center, tourism district established
55 under section 32-302, flood commission or authority established by
56 special act, regional council of governments, transit district formed
57 under chapter 103a, or the Children's Center established by number
58 571 of the public acts of 1969; (B) "nonprofit corporation" means (i) a
59 nonprofit corporation organized under 26 USC 501 that has a contract
60 with the state or receives a portion of its funding from a municipality,
61 the state or the federal government, or (ii) an organization that is tax
62 exempt pursuant to 26 USC 501(c)(5); (C) "community action agency"
63 means a community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885; (D)
64 "small employer" means a small employer, as defined in section 38a-
65 564; (E) "eligible individuals" or "individuals eligible for a health
66 coverage tax credit" means individuals who are eligible for the credit
67 for health insurance costs under Section 35 of the Internal Revenue
68 Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code
69 of the United States, as from time to time amended, in accordance with
70 the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; (F) "association for personal
71 care assistants" means an organization composed of personal care
72 attendants who are employed by recipients of service (i) under the
73 home-care program for the elderly under section 17b-342, (ii) under the
74 personal care assistance program under section 17b-605a, (iii) in an
75 independent living center pursuant to sections 17b-613 to 17b-615,
76 inclusive, or (iv) under the program for individuals with acquired
77 brain injury as described in section 17b-260a; and (G) "retired
78 members" means individuals eligible for a retirement benefit from the
79 Connecticut municipal employees' retirement system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	5-259(i)

Statement of Purpose:

To make administrative changes to the municipal employees health insurance program.

[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.]