

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 02964**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Stephen Kulik*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to provide health insurance parity for municipalities and local taxpayers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Richard Bastien</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 02964

By Mr. Kulik of Worthington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2964) of Walz and others for legislation to provide health insurance parity between municipal health care plans and Group Insurance Commission plans Joint Committee on Public Service.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to provide health insurance parity for municipalities and local taxpayers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Section 1. Chapter 32B is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new
- 2 section:
- 3 Section 20
- 4 Effective January 1, 2009, upon acceptance of this section in the manner provided for in Section
- 5 10 of this chapter, a governmental unit is authorized to include, as part of the health plans
- 6 (HMOs, PPOs, indemnity plans) that it offers to its employees and retirees, co-payments,
- 7 deductibles and tiered provider network co-payments (or other plan design features) that are no
- 8 greater in dollar amount than the highest co-payments, deductibles and tiered provider network
- 9 co-payments (or other plan design features) provided in any of the same class (HMOs, PPOs,
- 10 indemnity plans) of health plans offered by the Group Insurance Commission pursuant to G.L. c.

11 32A. For purposes of this section, a “Point of Service” plan offered by a governmental unit  
12 shall be considered to fall within the PPO class.

13 The above authorized dollar amounts for co-payments, deductibles and tiered provider network  
14 co-payments (or other plan design features) shall be increased whenever the Group Insurance  
15 Commission increases the dollar amount of co-payments and/or deductibles and/or tiered  
16 provider network co-payments (or other plan design features) on the health plans that it offers.

17 A governmental unit may include in its health plans co-payments, deductibles and tiered provider  
18 network co-payments (or other plan design features) up to the above-referenced amounts without  
19 bargaining pursuant to M.G.L. c. 150E concerning the decision to do so.

20 Nothing herein shall prohibit a governmental unit from including in its health plans higher co-  
21 payments, deductibles or tiered provider network co-payments (or other plan design features)  
22 than those authorized by the preceding paragraphs of this section; but such higher co-payments,  
23 deductibles or tiered provider network co-payments (or other plan design features) may be  
24 included only after the governmental unit has satisfied any bargaining obligations pursuant to  
25 M.G.L. 150E.

26 Section 2. Section 18 of Chapter 32B is hereby amended by striking the first twenty words of  
27 the first paragraph of said section and by striking the second paragraph of said section in its  
28 entirety.

29 Section 3. Section 18A of Chapter 32B is hereby amended by striking it in its entirety.