

2010 -- H 7266

LC00866

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Introduced By: Representatives M Rice, Naughton, Walsh, and Lally

Date Introduced: January 28, 2010

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 36-12-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 36-12 entitled "Insurance
2 Benefits" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **36-12-2. Hospital care and surgical-medical service benefits.** -- (a) Employees of the
4 state of Rhode Island shall receive, in addition to wages, salaries, and any other remuneration or
5 benefits, hospital care and surgical-medical services, rights, and benefits purchased by the
6 director of administration pursuant to section 36-12-6, with the specific condition that the benefits
7 and services provided by the carrier(s) will be substantially equivalent to those set forth in any
8 collective bargaining agreement(s) executed between the state of Rhode Island and authorized
9 representatives of the unions representing state employees or the health care coverage presently
10 being provided.

11 (b) The state will work diligently with leadership of organized labor in order to ensure
12 competitive, cost effective health care services for all employees of the state who may be eligible
13 for those benefits.

14 (c) Any new plan must accept pre-existing conditions for those individuals who will be
15 covered by the new policy.

16 (d) Part-time employees whose work week is less than twenty (20) hours a week may
17 purchase the benefits set forth above. The employees shall pay the same rate for the benefits as
18 the group rate paid by the state for the benefits. Payments for the benefits may be deducted in
19 accordance with the provisions of section 36-12-3.

1 (e) The state shall offer as an option to the employees of the state the opportunity for
2 equivalent health care coverage from any health, medical and dental insurance provider doing
3 business in the State of Rhode Island provided that the employee pay the difference in premium
4 costs offered by the state's primary insurance provider.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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1 This act would provide a choice of health care benefits providers to state employees
2 provided that the employees pay any difference in price from that offered by the state's primary
3 insurance provider.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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