HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2071 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2455

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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:

An Act relative to Commonwealth contribution for lowest cost plan.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	*4th Hampden*
F. Jay Barrows	*1st Bristol*
Donald H. Wong	*9th Essex*
Sheila C. Harrington	*1st Middlesex*
Steven L. Levy	*4th Middlesex*
Paul K. Frost	*7th Worcester*
George N. Peterson, Jr.	*9th Worcester*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	*1st Plymouth*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2071 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2455

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2455) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others relative to defining family health coverage and individual health coverage for public employees. Public Service.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to Commonwealth contribution for lowest cost plan.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 32A of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 288 of the acts of 2010, is hereby further amended by inserting after the definition of "Health care organization" the following new definitions:

"Family health coverage", health insurance coverage for an employee and his or her eligible dependents;

"Individual health coverage", health insurance coverage for an employee.

SECTION 2. Section 4 of said chapter 32A is hereby amended by striking lines 1 to 44, inclusive, and inserting in the place thereof the following:-

"Section 8. For policies of group life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance purchased by the commission in accordance with the provisions of sections 4 and 5, the commonwealth, on behalf of active and retired employees and their dependents, shall contribute no less than 75 per cent of the total monthly premium or rate applicable to said coverages and the active and retired employees on behalf of themselves or themselves and their dependents shall contribute the remaining 25 per cent of the total monthly premium or rate, except, that upon approval by way of an annual, or more frequent appropriation act, the commonwealth may contribute more than 75 per cent but less than the entire total monthly premium or rate. For all policies of family health coverage purchased by the commission in accordance with the provisions of sections 4, 5, and 10c, the commonwealth, on behalf of active employees and their dependents, shall contribute 80 per cent of the lowest cost family health coverage plan and the active employees on behalf of themselves or themselves and their dependents shall contribute the remaining total monthly premium or rate, except, that upon approval by way of an annual, or more frequent appropriation act, the commonwealth may contribute less than 80 per cent of the entire total monthly premium or rate. For all policies of

24 individual health coverage purchased by the commission in accordance with the provisions of
25 sections 4, 5, and 10c, the commonwealth, on behalf of active employees, shall contribute 80 per
26 cent of the lowest cost individual health coverage plan and the active employees shall contribute
27 the remaining total monthly premium or rate, except, that upon approval by way of an annual, or
28 more frequent appropriation act, the commonwealth may contribute less than 80 per cent of the
29 entire total monthly premium or rate. For all policies of family health coverage purchased by the
30 commission in accordance with the provisions of sections 4, 5, and 10c, the commonwealth, on
31 behalf of retired employees and their dependents, shall contribute 90 per cent of the lowest cost
32 family health coverage plan and the retired employees on behalf of themselves or themselves and
33 their dependents shall contribute the remaining total monthly premium or rate, except, that upon
34 approval by way of an annual, or more frequent appropriation act, the commonwealth may
35 contribute less than 90 per cent of the entire total monthly premium or rate. For all policies of
36 individual health coverage purchased by the commission in accordance with the provisions of
37 sections 4, 5, and 10c, the commonwealth, on behalf of retired employees, shall contribute 90 per
38 cent of the lowest cost individual health coverage plan and the retired employees shall contribute
39 the remaining total monthly premium or rate, except, that upon approval by way of an annual, or
40 more frequent appropriation act, the commonwealth may contribute less than 90 per cent of the
41 entire total monthly premium or rate. Each appropriation act as may be applicable, shall provide
42 the necessary sum based upon the estimated monthly cost as required by section four and shall
43 describe the ratio of contribution to be paid by the commonwealth and by the active and retired
44 employees insured under the aforesaid sections. The description of the ratio may include a
45 condition that if, as a result of a change in the total monthly premium or rate which occurs during
46 the current or ensuing fiscal year from a change in a contract between the commission and the
47 insurance carrier or carriers, the amount of the contribution paid by the active and retired
48 employee and dependents is to remain unchanged and the difference in the amount thus paid and
49 the total monthly premium or rate as changed is to be added to, or deducted from as the case may
50 be, the contribution by the commonwealth. The aforesaid ratio shall continue until changed by a
51 subsequent appropriation act and the aforesaid sum shall also include the commonwealth's
52 contribution of the total monthly premium or rate required for coverages contained in other
53 sections of this chapter as such contribution is provided in said sections.

54 With respect to any period of insurance authorized by this chapter which is in effect for
55 an active employee and dependent, there shall be withheld from each payment of salary or wages
56 the amount authorized by this section, or, there shall be withheld a greater amount as provided in
57 the most recent applicable appropriation act. With respect to any period of insurance authorized
58 by this chapter which is in effect for a retired employee and dependent, there shall be withheld
59 from each payment of pension or retirement allowance the amount authorized by this section, or,
60 there shall be withheld a greater amount as provided in the most recent applicable appropriation
61 act. The commonwealth shall contribute a share of any additional premium which may be
62 required for coverage of an employee's dependent child who is nineteen years of age or over and

63 mentally or physically incapable of earning his own living, such share equaling the same ratio as
64 that paid on behalf of an active or retired employee and dependent.”.