

Chapter 843.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-three

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE COVERAGE OF CONTRIBUTORY GROUP GENERAL
OR BLANKET INSURANCE FOR PERSONS IN THE SERVICE OF COUNTIES, CITIES, TOWNS AND
DISTRICTS, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

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. The first paragraph of section 3 of chapter 32B of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 196 of the acts of 1971, is hereby further amended by striking out the sixth, seventh, and eighth sentences.

SECTION 2. Said chapter 32B is hereby further amended by striking out section 5, as most recently amended by chapter 296 of the acts of 1971, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 5. The amount of group life insurance on each employee and the amount of group accident death and dismemberment insurance on each employee shall be established by the appropriate public authority except that those employees desiring to elect optional coverage in excess of the amount or amounts so established may do so as provided in section eleven A. The schedules of hospital, surgical, medical and other health insurance benefits and the amount to be provided each employee and his dependents shall be determined by the appropriate public authority subject to the amount of the appropriation made available for such purpose, provided, however, that to the extent such schedules exceed the schedule of benefits established under section eleven of this chapter, the premium applicable to such excess coverage shall be withheld from each payment of salary or wages of such employee and the governmental unit shall make no contribution applicable to such excess coverage.

SECTION 3. Said chapter 32B is hereby further amended by striking out section 11, as most recently amended by section 6 of chapter 841 of the acts of 1965, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 11. The appropriate public authority in each county, city, town or district which has accepted this chapter shall from time to time issue rules and regulations establishing a schedule of group life, accidental death and dismemberment insurance for each employee and a schedule of hospital, surgical and medical

and other health insurance benefits for active and retired employees and their dependents which schedules shall be the maximum schedules of insurance coverage to be made available for active and retired employees and their dependents of the governmental unit.

The appropriate public authority in each city, town or district which has accepted this chapter may notify the county commissioners of its election to participate in the schedule of benefits made available by said county for its employees; and subject to the approval of said commissioners the employees of the city, town or district so applying will become insured at the earliest practicable date, but in no event later than the commencement of the next policy anniversary date. Such coverage shall be furnished at uniform premium rates to all participating counties, cities, towns and districts. Two or more counties establishing identical benefit schedules may join under one such policy or policies and may be considered as one governmental unit. The county commissioners may at their discretion establish a central administrative office and employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

Upon request, the commission shall furnish information and advisory rulings in accordance with the provisions of section eight of chapter thirty A.

SECTION 4. The seventh paragraph of section 11A of said chapter 32B, as appearing in section 5 of chapter 334 of the acts of 1961, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 3 to 5, inclusive, the words "provided that the commission shall review the provisions for such insurance before the effective date thereof".

SECTION 5. Section 11C of said chapter 32B, inserted by section 7 of chapter 841 of the acts of 1965, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph.

SECTION 6. The third paragraph of section 11D of said chapter 32B, inserted by chapter 383 of the acts of 1967, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 3 to 5, inclusive, the words "provided that the terms of such insurance shall have been approved by the commission before the effective date thereof and," and inserting in place thereof the word:- and.

SECTION 7. Said chapter 32B is hereby further amended by striking out section 14, as amended by section 5 of chapter 337 of the acts of 1960, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 14. The appropriate public authority in each governmental unit shall adopt such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this chapter, as

S 527B

may be necessary for the administration of this chapter. At the option of the appropriate public authority, a copy of any such proposed agreement or contract may be submitted to the commission for review and comment by it upon all or such portions thereof as the appropriate public authority may request.

SECTION 8. The second paragraph of section 16 of said chapter 32B, as appearing in section 5 of chapter 946 of the acts of 1971, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence.

SECTION 9. The fourth paragraph of said section 16 of said chapter 32B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence.

SECTION 10. The sixth paragraph of said section 16 of said chapter 32B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the words “, not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the commission,”.

House of Representatives, September 24, 1973.

Passed to be enacted, *David M. Bartley* Speaker.

In Senate, September 24, 1973.

Passed to be enacted, *Joseph J. C. DeToro*, Acting President.

September 27, 1973.

Approved,

Francis J. Sargent
governor.

In City Council,

October 29, 1973

*Copy sent to Committee
on Finance 10/30/73 dl*