



1995 ASSEMBLY BILL 799

January 22, 1996 - Introduced by Representatives OURADA, FREESE, DOBYNS, SPRINGER, GOETSCH, LADWIG, BOCK, SCHNEIDERS, BRANDEMUEHL, OTTE, HUBER, HASENOHRL, URBAN, L. YOUNG, MUSSER, ZIEGELBAUER, WIRCH, AINSWORTH, OTT, WILLIAMS, BOYLE, ROBSON, PLOMBON and BAUMGART, cosponsored by Senators BUETTNER, PANZER, ROSENZWEIG, BRESKE, DARLING, CLAUSING and GROBSCHMIDT. Referred to Committee on Insurance, Securities and Corporate Policy.

1 **AN ACT to create** 601.41 (7) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring the office of
2 the commissioner of insurance to provide information and technical assistance
3 to employes and former employes who lose health care coverage and making an
4 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the office of the commissioner of insurance (office) to provide information and technical assistance regarding continuation and conversion coverage options and the availability of individual health insurance plans in the area to employes and former employes who have lost health care coverage under a group health insurance plan or self-insured health plan. (This situation would most commonly arise as a result of a loss of jobs from a business closing or layoffs, or if an employer discontinued health care coverage for its employes.) Under the bill, an additional employe is authorized for the office for the purpose of providing the information and technical assistance.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

5 **SECTION 1.** 601.41 (7) of the statutes is created to read:
6 601.41 (7) INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYES AND FORMER
7 EMPLOYES WHO LOSE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE. The commissioner shall provide to

1 employees and former employees who lose health care coverage under a group health
2 insurance plan or self-insured health plan information and technical assistance
3 regarding all of the following:

4 (a) Any rights that the individuals may have to continuation coverage, as
5 defined in s. 252.16 (1) (a), or conversion coverage under s. 632.897.

6 (b) The availability of individual health benefit plans in the area in which the
7 individual resides.

8 **SECTION 2. Appropriation changes.**

9 (1) OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE. In the schedule under section
10 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the office of the commissioner of
11 insurance under section 20.145 (1) (g) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 1995,
12 the dollar amount is increased by \$15,600 for fiscal year 1995-96 and the dollar
13 amount is increased by \$31,300 for fiscal year 1996-97 to increase the authorized
14 FTE positions for the office of the commissioner of insurance by 1.0 PR position to
15 perform the information and technical assistance duties under section 601.41 (7) of
16 the statutes, as created by this act.

17 (END)