

MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

Background and Rationale for House 2402

Joint Committee on Public Service Hearing September 8, 2015

Background

- Under the Affordable Care Act (referred to as the “ObamaCare” or the “ACA”) the Commonwealth, as an employer, will be required to offer affordable, minimum-value health insurance to at least 95% of full-time employees in 2016.
- If the Commonwealth does not offer such health insurance to at least 95% of full-time employees, the Commonwealth will be fined by the federal government. Fines could be as high as \$3,000 per full-time employee.
- Full-time employee is defined as working at least 30 hours per week.
- Employment for all Commonwealth agencies will be aggregated for purposes of determining if the 30-hour threshold is met.
- Part-time faculty members at the nine Massachusetts state universities have **no** access to employee sponsored health insurance. Only full-time employees are GIC-eligible under current law and GIC regulations.
- This bill only applied to part-time faculty teaching at the nine Massachusetts state universities. Other unions with part-time employees are taking other legislative approaches.

Testimony

- Legislators find personal stories compelling.
- Bring written copies of your testimony. The hearing may end before you have a chance to speak.
- Try to limit testimony to one page. Include your name and address. Some legislators also want a telephone number. Live testimony is typically limited to three minutes.
- Stay focused that the subject of the bill.
- Try not to read your testimony to the committee. Have notes you can quickly reference. Testimony that appears spontaneous tends to better hold legislators’ attention.