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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1437**

Offered January 17, 2006

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-3521.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to small business health insurance associations.*

Patrons—Melvin, Morgan, Albo, Alexander, Brink, Bulova, Cosgrove, Englin, Hall, Hogan, Hull, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Lewis, Marsden, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., McClellan, McEachin, Miller, Moran, Nutter, Phillips, Rust, Scott, J.M., Shuler, Spruill, Tyler, Ward and Ware, O.

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 38.2-3521.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 38.2-3521.1. Group accident and sickness insurance definitions.

Except as provided in § 38.2-3522.1, no policy of group accident and sickness insurance shall be delivered in this Commonwealth unless it conforms to one of the following descriptions:

A. A policy issued to an employer, or to the trustees of a fund established by an employer, which employer or trustees shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure employees of the employer for the benefit of persons other than the employer, subject to the following requirements:

1. The employees eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the employees of the employer, or all of any class or classes thereof. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include the employees of one or more subsidiary corporations, and the employees, individual proprietors, and partners of one or more affiliated corporations, proprietorships or partnerships if the business of the employer and of such affiliated corporations, proprietorships or partnerships is under common control. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include retired employees, former employees and directors of a corporate employer. A policy issued to insure the employees of a public body may provide that the term "employees" shall include elected or appointed officials.

2. The premium for the policy shall be paid either from the employer's funds or from funds contributed by the insured employees, or from both. Except as provided in subdivision 3 of this subsection, a policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured employees must insure all eligible employees, except those who reject such coverage in writing.

3. An insurer may exclude or limit the coverage on any person as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, except as otherwise prohibited in this title.

B. A policy which is:

1. Not subject to Chapter 37.1 (§ 38.2-3727 et seq.) of this title, and

2. Issued to a creditor or its parent holding company or to a trustee or trustees or agent designated by two or more creditors, which creditor, holding company, affiliate, trustee, trustees or agent shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure debtors of the creditor or creditors with respect to their indebtedness, subject to the following requirements:

a. The debtors eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the debtors of the creditor or creditors, or all of any class or classes thereof. The policy may provide that the term "debtors" shall include:

(1) Borrowers of money or purchasers or lessees of goods, services, or property for which payment is arranged through a credit transaction;

(2) The debtors of one or more subsidiary corporations; and

(3) The debtors of one or more affiliated corporations, proprietorships or partnerships if the business of the policyholder and of such affiliated corporations, proprietorships or partnerships is under common control.

b. The premium for the policy shall be paid either from the creditor's funds, or from charges collected from the insured debtors, or from both. Except as provided in subdivision 3 of this subsection, a policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by insured debtors specifically for their insurance must insure all eligible debtors.

3. An insurer may exclude any debtors as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer.

4. The total amount of insurance payable with respect to an indebtedness shall not exceed the greater of the scheduled or actual amount of unpaid indebtedness to the creditor. The insurer may exclude any payments which are delinquent on the date the debtor becomes disabled as defined in the policy.

5. The insurance may be payable to the creditor or any successor to the right, title, and interest of

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56 the creditor. Such payment or payments shall reduce or extinguish the unpaid indebtedness of the debtor  
57 to the extent of each such payment and any excess of the insurance shall be payable to the insured or  
58 the estate of the insured.

59 6. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this section, insurance on agricultural credit  
60 transaction commitments may be written up to the amount of the loan commitment. Insurance on  
61 educational credit transaction commitments may be written up to the amount of the loan commitment  
62 less the amount of any repayments made on the loan.

63 C. A policy issued to a labor union, or similar employee organization, which labor union or  
64 organization shall be deemed to be the policyholder, to insure members of such union or organization  
65 for the benefit of persons other than the union or organization or any of its officials, representatives, or  
66 agents, subject to the following requirements:

67 1. The members eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the members of the union or  
68 organization, or all of any class or classes thereof.

69 2. The premium for the policy shall be paid either from funds of the union or organization, or from  
70 funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance, or from both. Except as  
71 provided in subdivision 3 of this subsection, a policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived  
72 from funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance must insure all eligible  
73 members, except those who reject such coverage in writing.

74 3. An insurer may exclude or limit the coverage on any person as to whom evidence of individual  
75 insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, except as otherwise prohibited in this title.

76 D. A policy issued (i) to or for a multiple employer welfare arrangement, a rural electric cooperative,  
77 or a rural electric telephone cooperative as these terms are defined in 29 U.S.C. § 1002, or (ii) to a trust,  
78 or to the trustees of a fund, established or adopted by or for two or more employers, or by one or more  
79 labor unions of similar employee organizations, or by one or more employers and one or more labor  
80 unions or similar employee organizations, which trust or trustees shall be deemed the policyholder, to  
81 insure employees of the employers or members of the unions or organizations for the benefit of persons  
82 other than the employers or the unions or organizations, subject to the following requirements:

83 1. The persons eligible for insurance shall be all of the employees of the employers or all of the  
84 members of the unions or organizations, or all of any class or classes thereof. The policy may provide  
85 that the term "employee" shall include the employees of one or more subsidiary corporations, and the  
86 employees, individual proprietors, and partners of one or more affiliated corporations, proprietorships or  
87 partnerships if the business of the employer and of such affiliated corporations, proprietorships or  
88 partnerships is under common control. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include  
89 retired employees, former employees and directors of a corporate employer. The policy may provide that  
90 the term "employees" shall include the trustees or their employees, or both, if their duties are principally  
91 connected with such trusteeship.

92 2. The premium for the policy shall be paid from funds contributed by the employer or employers of  
93 the insured persons, or by the union or unions or similar employee organizations, or by both, or from  
94 funds contributed by the insured persons or from both the insured persons and the employers or unions  
95 or similar employee organizations. Except as provided in subdivision 3 of this subsection, a policy on  
96 which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured persons  
97 specifically for their insurance must insure all eligible persons, except those who reject such coverage in  
98 writing.

99 3. An insurer may exclude or limit the coverage on any person as to whom evidence of individual  
100 insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, except as otherwise prohibited in this title.

101 E. 1. A policy issued to an association or to a trust or to the trustees of a fund established, created,  
102 or maintained for the benefit of members of one or more associations which association or trust shall be  
103 deemed the policyholder. The association or associations shall:

104 a. Have at the outset a minimum of 100 persons;

105 b. Have been organized and maintained in good faith for purposes other than that of obtaining  
106 insurance;

107 c. Have been in active existence for at least five years;

108 d. Have a constitution and bylaws which provide that (i) the association or associations hold regular  
109 meetings not less than annually to further purposes of the members, (ii) except for credit unions, the  
110 association or associations collect dues or solicit contributions from members, and (iii) the members  
111 have voting privileges and representation on the governing board and committees;

112 e. Does not condition membership in the association on any health status-related factor relating to an  
113 individual (including an employee of an employer or a dependent of an employee);

114 f. Makes health insurance coverage offered through the association available to all members  
115 regardless of any health status-related factor relating to such members (or individuals eligible for  
116 coverage through a member);

117 g. Does not make health insurance coverage offered through the association available other than in

connection with a member of the association; and

h. Meets such additional requirements as may be imposed under the laws of this Commonwealth.

2. The policy shall be subject to the following requirements:

a. The policy may insure members of such association or associations, employees thereof or employees of members, or one or more of the preceding or all of any class or classes thereof for the benefit of persons other than the employee's employer.

b. The premium for the policy shall be paid from funds contributed by the association or associations, or by employer members, or by both, or from funds contributed by the covered persons or from both the covered persons and the association, associations, or employer members.

3. Except as provided in subdivision 4 of this subsection, a policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the covered persons specifically for their insurance must insure all eligible persons, except those who reject such coverage in writing.

4. An insurer may exclude or limit the coverage on any person as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, except as otherwise prohibited in this title.

F. A policy issued to a credit union or to a trustee or trustees or agent designated by two or more credit unions, which credit union, trustee, trustees, or agent shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure members of such credit union or credit unions for the benefit of persons other than the credit union or credit unions, trustee or trustees, or agent or any of their officials, subject to the following requirements:

1. The members eligible for insurance shall be all of the members of the credit union or credit unions, or all of any class or classes thereof.

2. The premium for the policy shall be paid by the policyholder from the credit union's funds and, except as provided in subdivision 3 of this subsection, must insure all eligible members.

3. An insurer may exclude or limit the coverage on any person as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer.

G. A policy issued to a health maintenance organization as provided in subsection B of § 38.2-4314.

*H. 1. A policy issued to an association of small employers formed for the purpose of obtaining insurance, which association shall be deemed the policyholder. The small employer association shall:*

*a. Not condition membership in the small employer association on any health status-related factor relating to an individual (including an employee of a small employer or a dependent of an employee);*

*b. Make health insurance coverage offered through the small employer association available to all employees or dependents of employees of members regardless of any health status-related factor relating to individuals eligible for coverage through a member;*

*c. Not make health insurance coverage offered through the small employer association available other than in connection with a member of the small employer association; and*

*d. Meet such additional requirements as may be imposed under the laws of this Commonwealth.*

2. The policy shall be subject to the following requirements:

a. The policy may insure employees of members of the small employer association, or all of any class or classes thereof for the benefit of persons other than the employee's employer.

b. The premium for the policy shall be paid from funds contributed by the small employer association, or by small employer members, or by both, or from funds contributed by the covered persons or from both the covered persons and the association or employer members.

3. Except as provided in subdivision 4 of this subsection, a policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the covered persons specifically for their insurance shall insure all eligible persons, except those who reject such coverage in writing.

4. An insurer may exclude or limit the coverage on any person as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, except as otherwise prohibited in this title.

5. An insurer issuing coverage to such a small employer association shall give the association the same consideration and privileges as a single entity in pricing and other terms of coverage under a group benefit plan, including any provision relating to premium rates and issuance and renewal of coverage.

6. As used in this subsection, "small employer" means an employer who employed an average of at least two employees but not more than 100 eligible employees on business days during the preceding calendar year.