House of Representatives

File No. 975

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File No. 316)

Substitute House Bill No. 6999
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 29, 2025

AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF MULTIPLE EMPLOYER WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND A REPORT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE PLANS, RETIREMENT PLANS AND OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED BY NONSTATE PUBLIC EMPLOYERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Comptroller, in collaboration with the Office of Policy and Management, the Insurance Department and any interested trade, industry, nonprofit or professional association, as determined by the Comptroller in consultation with the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance, shall conduct a study of the costs and benefits associated with allowing trade associations to pool such trade associations' memberships for the purpose of sponsoring group health insurance plans through the establishment of a multiple employer welfare arrangement. Not later than February 1, 2026, the Comptroller shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the

general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance. Such report shall include, to the extent such information is available, (1) the approximate total number of employees covered under such group health insurance plans sponsored by employer members of trade associations, (2) the total estimated premium for each coverage type, inclusive of employee and employer shares and medical and pharmacy coverage, (3) the suggested amounts of any contributions by such employer members of trade associations to health savings or health reimbursement accounts, and any legislative recommendations concerning tax abatements, (4) the suggested number of participants in such group health insurance plans, including employee dependents, to properly fund such pool, and (5) such other information as the Comptroller, in consultation with any interested trade, industry, nonprofit or professional association, as determined by the Comptroller, deems appropriate to consider with respect to whether savings could be accomplished if such trade associations were permitted to pool such trade associations' membership for the purpose of sponsoring group health insurance plans through the establishment of a multiple employer welfare arrangement. Such report shall not contain the names of or other identifying information pertaining to any such organizations in connection with information included pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of this section.

Sec. 2. Section 3-123xxx of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) Not later than October 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, each nonstate public employer shall submit a report to the Comptroller, Office of Policy and Management and Office of Fiscal Analysis, in a form and manner prescribed by the Comptroller. Such report shall contain (1) the total number of employees covered under a health care plan sponsored by such employer, (2) the coverage type selected by each covered employee, (3) the total premium for each coverage type, inclusive of employee and employer shares and medical and pharmacy coverage, (4) the amount of any contributions by such employer to

health savings or health reimbursement accounts, (5) the number of participants in such health care plans, including employee dependents, (6) a summary of benefits and coverage for each health care plan offered by such employer and the number of employees enrolled in each such plan, and (7) information concerning retirement plans and benefits offered or provided by such employer and the total costs to such employer associated with the provision of such plans and benefits in the preceding year.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to each nonstate public employer, the Office of Policy and Management, the Office of Fiscal Analysis and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance and planning and development. Such report shall include a summary and analysis of the information included in the reports submitted by such nonstate public employers pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 2	*October 1, 2025*	3-123xxx

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Comptroller	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 results in a one-time potential cost to the Comptroller in FY 26 to conduct a study of the costs and benefits of allowing trade associations to pool their memberships to establish a multiple employer welfare agreement for the purpose of sponsoring group help insurance plans.

Section 2 requires the Comptroller to submit an annual report summarizing and analyzing certain information provided by nonstate public employers and does not result in a fiscal impact as it can be completed within existing resources.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact, and results in the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

The potential cost identified above only applies to FY 26 and does not have an out year impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6999 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT REQUIRING A REPORT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE PLANS, RETIREMENT PLANS AND OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED BY NONSTATE PUBLIC EMPLOYERS.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes two reporting requirements on employer-sponsored health care plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, but the provision requiring the study on trade associations is effective from passage.

*House Amendment "A" adds the provision requiring a study on trade associations and adds the Insurance Committee to the list of entities that must receive the annual report summarizing data on nonstate public employers.

STUDY ON TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

The bill requires the comptroller, in consultation with specified entities described below, to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of allowing trade associations to pool their memberships to sponsor group health insurance plans by establishing a multiple employer welfare arrangement. The report must include available information on:

1. the approximate number of employees covered under these group health insurance plans sponsored by employer members of trade associations;

2. the total estimated premium for each coverage type, including employee and employer shares and medical and pharmacy coverage;

3. the suggested amounts of any contributions to health savings or health reimbursement accounts by these employers or trade association members;

4. any legislative recommendations on tax abatements;

5. the suggested number of participants in these plans, including employee dependents, to properly fund the pool; and

6. other information the comptroller determines, in consultation with interested parties (described below), is appropriate to consider when determining whether allowing trade associations to pool their members for this purpose would result in savings.

The comptroller must do the study in collaboration with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), the Insurance Department, and any interested parties. Interested parties are trade, industry, nonprofit, or professional associations the comptroller selects in consultation with the Insurance Committee chairpersons and ranking members. The bill specifies that the report must not include the names of or identifying information for any organizations connected with the required information in the report.

The comptroller must submit the report to the Insurance Committee by February 1, 2026.

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARIZING DATA ON NONSTATE PUBLIC EMPLOYERS

The bill additionally requires the comptroller to summarize and analyze information that nonstate public employers must give him about their health care plans under existing law (e.g., the number of employees covered under an employer-sponsored plan, the benefits and coverage provided under each plan, and information about retirement plans and benefits the employer offers). The comptroller must annually submit, beginning by January 1, 2026, his summary and analysis to the OPM secretary, Office of Fiscal Analysis, Planning and Development Committee, Insurance Committee, and each nonstate public employer.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, nonstate public employers must submit this information about their health care plans by October 1 each year.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 12 Nay 8 (03/12/2025)