HEALTH INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) LAW, 2020

(Law 38 of 2020)

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A LAW TO AMEND THE HEALTH INSURANCE LAW (2018 REVISION) AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE CIVIL PARTNERSHIP LAW, 2020; AND FOR INCIDENTAL AND CONNECTED PURPOSES

ENACTED by the Governor in accordance with section 81 of the Constitution, after consultation with the Premier, with the prior approval of the Secretary of State, and pursuant to instructions issued in accordance with section 31 of the Constitution.

Short title and commencement
1. (1) This Law may be cited as the Health Insurance (Amendment) Law, 2020.

(2) This Law comes into force immediately after the commencement of the Civil Partnership Law, 2020.

Amendment of section 2 of the Health Insurance Law (2018 Revision) - definitions
2. The Health Insurance Law (2018 Revision) is amended in section 2 as follows —

(a) by deleting the definition of the word “child” and substituting the following definition —

“child” means an individual who is under the age of eighteen and who is —
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(3) the offspring of a party, or both parties, to a marriage, civil partnership or a common law union; or

(b) an individual who has been treated by a party, or both parties, to a marriage, civil partnership or common law union as a child of the family, including a step child, an adopted or foster child or a child born to parents who were not married or in a civil partnership;”;

(b) in the definition of the word “dependant” by inserting after the word “spouse” the words “or unemployed civil partner”; and

(c) by inserting in the appropriate alphabetical sequence the following definitions —

““civil partner” has the meaning assigned by the Civil Partnership Law, 2020;

“civil partnership” has the meaning assigned by the Civil Partnership Law, 2020; and

“unemployed civil partner” in respect of an employer or employee, means a legal resident who is the civil partner of that employer or employee and who —

(a) is not living apart from that employer or employee under a deed of separation or order of the court;

(b) is not an employer or employee; and

(c) is resident in the Islands,

and includes a retired person;”.

Amendment of section 5 of the Health Insurance Law (2018 Revision) - compulsory health insurance

3. The Health Insurance Law (2018 Revision) is amended in section 5 as follows —

(a) by repealing subsection (4) substituting the following subsection —

“(4) Government may, on written application to it by or on behalf of —

(a) a seaman fifty-five years of age or older and his dependants;

(b) a widow of a seaman;

(c) a veteran and his dependants;

(d) a widow of a veteran;

(e) a surviving civil partner of a seaman or veteran; or

(f) any other person approved by the Cabinet,

where that person is not covered by a contract of health insurance, agree to effect a contract of health insurance with an approved insurer
on behalf of such person on such terms and conditions as are specified in regulations made by the Cabinet in respect thereof.”;

(b) by repealing subsections (6) and (7) and substituting the following subsections —

“(6) If a spouse or civil partner ceases to be the unemployed spouse or unemployed civil partner of an employee within the meaning of section 2, the obligation imposed on the employer shall, subject to subsection (7), cease to have effect.

(7) Where an employee and the employee’s spouse or civil partner are employed by different employers, each employee may, subject to his or her employer’s agreement, elect which employer shall insure both of them or whether they shall be insured separately by each employer.”; and

(c) by repealing subsection (11) and substituting the following subsection —

“(11) The children of two employees and who are employed by different employers who are spouses or civil partners of each other shall be covered under only one insurance contract which shall be determined by the employees.

Assented to by the Governor the 4th day of September, 2020.