

(3) make election notification forms available to each employer whose employees are covered by a group contract.

(h) Notice of the availability of continuation coverage under this section shall be provided by:

(1) the employer; and

(2) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development as specified in § 8-805(c) of the Labor and Employment Article.

(i) An employer that fails to provide notice or an election notification form under this section is not liable to the insured or any other covered individual for benefits that otherwise would have been payable or for other damages that result from the failure to provide the notice or form.

(j) An employer that terminates continuation coverage after notice or nonpayment of an amount required under subsection (d)(2) of this section by the insured or other covered individual, or an insurer that terminates continuation coverage after notice by the employer, is not liable to the insured or other covered individual for benefits that otherwise would have been payable under this section if the termination:

(1) is made in good faith;

(2) is reasonable under the circumstances; and

(3) is not the result of a mutual or material mistake of fact.

(k) This section does not affect or limit the right of an insured to conversion privileges under a group contract.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the benefits required under this Act shall be available to eligible individuals on and after the effective date of this Act, notwithstanding any policy or benefit statement to the contrary.

~~SECTION 3.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved May 6, 2002.

CHAPTER 410

(House Bill 1172)

AN ACT concerning

Higher Education - Teaching Assistants - Eligibility for the Maryland Teacher Scholarship Program

FOR the purpose of making certain teaching assistants eligible for the Maryland Teacher Scholarship program; expanding the eligibility and renewability