

1 AN ACT relating to the uninsured.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Department of Insurance Law of the Civil  
5 Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding Section  
6 1405-25 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1405/1405-25 new)

8 Sec. 1405-25. Uninsured Ombudsman Program.

9 (a) The Department of Insurance shall establish and  
10 operate an Ombudsman Program for uninsured individuals to  
11 provide assistance and education to those individuals  
12 regarding health insurance benefits options and rights under  
13 State and federal law. The program may include, but is not  
14 limited to, counseling for uninsured individuals in the  
15 discovery, evaluation, and comparison of options for  
16 obtaining health insurance coverage.

17 (b) The Department may recruit and train volunteers to  
18 assist in the Ombudsman Program. The volunteers may provide  
19 one-on-one counseling on health insurance availability  
20 matters and provide education to uninsured individuals  
21 through public forums.

22 (c) The Department may issue reasonable rules necessary  
23 to implement this Section.

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on  
25 January 1, 2002.