AN ACT relating to the uninsured.

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

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

(20 ILCS 1405/1405-25 new)

Sec. 1405-25. Uninsured Ombudsman Program.

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

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

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

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

President of the Senate

Michael J. Madigan
Speaker, House of Representatives

APPROVED

this 9th day of August, 2001 A.D.,

George H Ryan
GOVERNOR

Originated in the Senate

Jim Harry Secretary of the Senate

PUBLIC ACT 92-331