

Notice of Public Hearing

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission (“GIC”), pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, M.G.L. c. 32A § 3, and M.G.L. c. 32B § 19, will hold a public hearing to hear testimony relating to its proposed changes to its regulations found at 805 CMR 9.00. The proposed changes to 805 CMR 9.00: Eligibility and Participation will update the existing regulations which govern the GIC’s operations with regard to new employees, subsequent determinations of ineligibility, reemployed persons, dental and vision benefits for Trial Court employees, dependent care assistance, and appeals.

The public hearing on the regulatory changes will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 via video and teleconference at 10:00 a.m. The GIC will present all proposed regulatory changes at the hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to afford all interested parties an opportunity to provide oral comments on the proposed changes to 805 CMR 9.00.

Oral Testimony

Individuals who notify the GIC of their intent to testify during a hearing will be afforded an earlier opportunity to speak. Speakers are strongly encouraged to notify the GIC of their intention to testify at the hearing by emailing GIC.CMR@mass.gov with the subject line “Regulation Hearing Comment – 805 CMR.” The GIC requests that speakers provide written copies of their testimony to the GIC before 5 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024. All submissions must include the sender’s full name and address.

Written Testimony

All parties may also submit written testimony by email or USPS. Individuals submitting written testimony via email should do so in the text of the email or by attaching a MSWord document to the email. Other file types will not be opened. All submissions must include the sender’s full name and address.

Email - email GIC.CMR@mass.gov with the subject line “Regulation Hearing Comment – 805 CMR.”

USPS - Legal Department, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission,
1 Ashburton Place, Suite 1619, Boston, MA 02108.

Written testimony on these regulations must be received by the GIC no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 8, 2024.

Remote Meeting and Remote Participation

The GIC will hold this hearing remotely.

10:00 a.m. Hearing - To join the 10:00 a.m. remote hearing online go to

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_twXgJu7qS1CqTCQu_ZqgAw

to register.

Accommodation Requests

Please submit your request for accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to Brock Veidenheimer, GIC ADA Coordinator, via email at gic.ada.requests@mass.gov, via telephone at (617) 727-2310, or via TDD/TTY at 711. Requests received after April 2, 2024 will be considered but may not be possible to fill.

Proposed Regulations Available Online or By Written Request

All persons desiring to review the current draft of the proposed regulatory changes may go to <https://www.mass.gov/law-library/gic-regulations> or request an electronic or hard copy of the proposed regulatory changes by emailing the GIC at GIC.CMR@mass.gov or in writing at Legal Department, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission, 1 Ashburton Place, Suite 1619, Boston, MA 02108.

The GIC may adopt a revised version of the proposed actions taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

Dated: March 13, 2024

Initial Small Business Impact Statement

(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)

CMR No.: 805 CMR 9.00

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: 0

Select Yes or No and Briefly Explain

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer,
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.)
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses?