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 ANNE CLEASBY,
 Appellant,
 v.
 Secretary, DEPARTMENT OF
 TRANSPORTATION,
 Respondent.
 Case No. 82-227-PC
 * * * * *

DECISION
 AND
 ORDER

This matter is before the Commission on a question of subject matter jurisdiction.

The appellant's letter of appeal filed November 23, 1982, indicated that she had commenced employment as a Word Processing Operator 2 on February 10, 1982; that following the expiration of her six-months probationary period on August 10, 1982, in reliance on information she had received from the DOT Employee Handbook and her supervisor that she had 31 days after her probationary period in which to apply for health insurance, she submitted her health insurance application; and that due to a change in policy of which she had not been informed that required that applications be submitted before the expiration of the probationary period, her application was denied.

This Commission can only hear those appeals which are authorized by statute. There is no statute which authorizes appeals of denials of health insurance coverage. The appellant contends that this appeal falls within the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to s.230.44(1)(d), stats., which provides for appeal of a "... personnel action after certification which is related to the hiring process in the classified service." She argues in a letter to the Commission dated December 10, 1982, that:

"The above actions are definitely related to my hiring process since the policy regarding the fact that I would have 31 days after my 6 months probationary period to apply for health insurance was explained to me when I was hired by my supervisor, Harold Erickson."

The fact that something may have occurred at the same time that the appellant was hired does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that it is "related" to the hiring process. See Webster's New World Dictionary (Second College Edition), p. 1198:

"related ... applied to things [implies] close connection through common origins, interdependence, etc. ..."

There is no connection between the decision to hire the appellant and the decision to deny her application for medical insurance, the subject matter of this appeal, which would make the two decisions "related" as that term is used in s.230.44(1)(d), stats.

Since the Commission must conclude that it lacks the authority to hear this appeal, it cannot address the merits of the case.

ORDER

This appeal is dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Dated: December 29, 1982

STATE PERSONNEL COMMISSION

AJT:ers


DONALD R. MURPHY, Chairperson


LAURIE R. McCALLUM, Commissioner


JAMES W. PHILLIPS, Commissioner

Parties

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