

Insurance Times: Schizophrenic employee of Mass. gets settlement

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BOSTON (AP) — A state employee with schizophrenia who sued to get disability pay for her mental illness has received a settlement of \$157,775 from the state Group Insurance Commission.

Valjeanne Currie alleged in a lawsuit that the state's disability policy illegally discriminated against the mentally ill because it covered only employees with physical disabilities.

The commission, in a statement, said the settlement was a "result of both sides' recognition of the uncertainties of litigation." The statement said Currie "recognizes that her legal case may be an uphill battle" and decided to accept the settlement. The statement also said the GIC has already sought to expand the disability insurance benefit policy for state employees with mental disabilities.

Currie had filed suit both in the state and federal court. After a lower state court rejected her lawsuit, mirroring decisions in other states, she appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court.