

SESSION OF 2002

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2247**

As Agreed to May 3, 2002

**Brief \***

HB 2247 concerns the Business Health Partnership Act enacted by the Legislature in 2000, with a sunset date of July 1, 2002. The bill removes the sunset date and makes several amendments to the act to:

- Clarify that references to employees should be to "eligible" employees, a defined term in the act;
- Allow the Health Policy Committee created by the act to determine the criteria to be used to determine low-wage or modest-wage employees eligible for subsidy support for premiums authorized by the act; and
- Authorize the Committee to terminate an entity serving as the Business Health Partnership if it fails to perform as intended.

The Conference Committee agrees to the amendments to HB 2247 and further agrees to amend the bill to clarify:

- The ability of the Health Policy Committee to revise as well as develop and approve subsidy eligibility criteria for low-wage and modest-wage employees based upon the criteria set out in the act;
- That low-wage and modest wage employees are those whose family income does not exceed 200 percent of the poverty level as set out in the act as opposed to an hourly wage criteria specified by the Health Policy Committee; and
- That subsidy schedules set by the Health Policy Committee be based on both employee wage levels and family income.

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\*Conference committee summary reports are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree.