

SESSION OF 2006

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2691**

As Agreed to March 29, 2006

Brief*

HB 2691 would change from December 31, 2005, to December 31, 2006, the sunset date contained in the law regarding parity between health and mental health benefits in all group health insurance policies except for small groups.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the Senate amendments to the bill and agreed to further amend the bill to remove the provisions relating to the identification of lienholders and mortgagees (originally contained in SB 442, as recommended by the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance), surety bonds (originally contained in SB 422, as recommended by the Senate Committee), HMO continuation of coverage (originally contained in HB 2693, as recommended by the House Committee on Insurance), and the Medicare Part D plan requirements (originally contained in SB 405, as amended by the Senate Committee).

Background

HB 2691 was requested by the Insurance Commissioner whose representative indicated that, in order to be in compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the state must change the sunset date annually as that date is changed at the federal level.

The Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance recommended an amendment to the bill to include the provisions of SB 442 (as recommended by the Senate Committee), SB 422 (as

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recommended by the Senate Committee), HB 2693 (as recommended by the House Committee on Insurance), and SB 405 (as amended by the Senate Committee).

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill indicates that passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect.