

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rep. Robert Tomlinson at 3:30 p.m. on January 23, 2001 in Room 523-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research
Ken Wilke, Legislative Revisor
Mary Best, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

None

Others attending:

See Attached Guest List

This meeting was held to work **HB 2032**, of which hearings were held January 16, 2001. There was no further testimony given on the bill. There was, however, a balloon given to the committee. A copy of the balloon is (Attachment #1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference. The balloon inserted the date of impact study be given to the Speaker and President of the House and Senate, and took care of misspelled definitions. Representative Dreher made the motion to accept the balloon. Representative Edmonds seconded the motion. The motion carried and the bill was amended. Representative Kirk then introduced a balloon and a letter from Terry Bernatis, Health Benefits Administrator, dated February 11, 2000. A copy of this material is (Attachment #'s 2 & 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference. Representative Kirk proposed inserting "attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder", in Section (b), adds a new section and changes the original wording for coverages to be included to show a date of "January 1, 2002, to July 1, 2001." The last change was to change the date in "(e) to replace January 1, 2002 to July 1, 2001." The letter from Ms Bernatis discussing mental health services coverage. Representative Boston directed questions to Representative Kirk regarding the purpose of her balloon. She again defined the purpose and made the motion to amend the bill with her balloon and Representative O'Brien seconded the motion. There was discussion between the Chair and the Revisor regarding the possibility of this exempting the test track. There was also discussion about the current mandate of first dollar coverage and if this would eliminate this coverage and return the policy to a deductible. Response was yes. Discussions were held with Representative Mayans who asked who would actually be surveyed as 86% of the people are not getting anything under this and 14% are with individual policies. Response was that 1/3 of the people are covered under this. The Chairman described what the bill attempts to do and Representative Kirk's information from Ms. Bernatis was came 1999 data health plan (State), covering 1/4th of the employees, that the data is incomplete and does not include new coverages. Data will always be incomplete as full parity was not implemented before January 2001. Other states have found significant differences: limitations, caps, exemptions. It is dangerous to issue a full mandate without having all of the data.

Chairman Tomlinson informed the committee that this bill asks for the best information that could possibly be gotten. Without the correct and complete information people are going to experience a rise in premium costs and be forced to drop their coverages, especially women and children. He stated they must weigh the impact on these people before going forward.

Further discussion was held on testing. Representative Kirk closed her motion and asked to recognized mental health illness as a physical illness, and stated that this would not mean higher costs for insurance. The vote was taken by a raise of hands, the motion failed, 10 to 1. Yes's were given by Representative's Kirk and Grant. The committee moved back to the bill. Representative Dreher made the motion to move the bill out favorably as amended and Representative Mayans seconded the motion. Representative Ostmeyer requested confirmation as to what the committee was now voting on, to which the Chairman made the clarifications. The Chairman reaffirmed to Representative Kirk that ADD/ADDHD would be included in the bill. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

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With no further business the meeting was adjourned. The time was 4:27 p.m.

The next meeting will be held January 25, 2001.