

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2071

As Further Amended by Senate Committee on
Financial Institutions and Insurance

Brief*

HB 2071, as further amended, changes the sunset date of December 31, 2002, contained in the law requiring parity between health and mental health benefits in all group health insurance policies except small groups, to December 31, 2003.

Background

As originally introduced, HB 2071 was recommended by the State Farm Insurance Companies whose representative explained that allowing insurance companies to use foreign language contracts on a voluntary basis will give some indication of how quickly the marketplace will move to require that this information be provided to the insuring public. In this process, the bill would have provided protection to the public through the unfair trade practice act.

The Senate Committee amendment added the provision to address the need to update the sunset provision in the law related to parity between health and mental health benefits.

As further amended by the Senate Committee, the language of the original bill related to insurers filing insurance contracts in foreign languages with the Insurance Commissioner is deleted.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates passage of the original bill would have no fiscal effect on the Insurance Department.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>