

SESSION OF 2004

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2549**

As Agreed to March 30, 2004

**Brief\***

HB 2549 changes from December 31, 2003, to December 31, 2004, the sunset date contained in the law requiring parity between health and mental health benefits in all group health insurance policies except for small groups. The change of date is necessary annually in order to keep Kansas law consistent with federal law.

HB 2549 also includes the provisions of two Senate bills previously passed by the Senate to:

- amend the statutes that authorize a health insurance program for targeted children developed and implemented by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) pursuant to guidelines set out in the law and in Title XXI of the Social Security Act. In Kansas, the children's health plan is called HealthWave. The bill allows the Secretary of SRS to provide that prescription drugs, transportation services, and dental services may be purchased outside of the capitated managed care plan required in the current law in order to improve the efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness of the childrens' health care program. (SB 367.)
- prohibit, on and after July 1, 2006, insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMO) offering any type of accident and sickness policy, any insurers and HMOs offering coverage for prescription drugs or devices to individuals residing in this state, and any issuers of uniform prescription drug information cards from printing or encoding an insured's social security number on or into the insured's policy card or drug card. Any identifier assigned to the insured must be a combination of numbers or letters, or both, which is unique to the cardholder. The identifier may not in any way be based on or depend on the

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cardholder's social security number.

Should a federal law take effect that requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a national unique patient health identifier program, any person or entity complying with the federal law will be deemed in compliance with the provision of the Kansas law. (SB 542.)

### **Conference Committee Action**

The House acceded to the Senate amendments to HB 2549 and the Conference Committee further agreed to amend the bill by deleting the provisions relating to the disposition of unclaimed property resulting from a demutualization, rehabilitation, or related reorganization of an insurance company. Those provisions have passed both chambers in Senate Bill No. 399.