



Date: August 7, 2006
To: NJ State NAHU Board
From: Legislative Management Team
Subject: August 2006 Legislative Report

There hasn't been a lot of activity since mid-June but there have been some major bills introduced and some important regulatory changes.

- Governor Corzine announced on 7/27/06 that a commission would be formed to consider adopting a program that "approaches universal health care" as it seeks to provide health insurance to small businesses and uninsured residents.
- Assemblyman Cohen introduced bill A-3431 that will lower the premium that Dependents to Age 30 pay to 45% of the employee rate. We are actively pursuing a meeting with Assemblyman Cohen to address this legislation.
- Doug Lubenow, NJAHU's State Legislative Chair, has a meeting scheduled on August 21 with Assemblyman Lou Greenwald who has been asked by the Assembly leadership to look into health insurance issues. He is interested in the Massachusetts Legislation and any other critical issues.
- In a Commissioners Advisory Board Meeting NJDOBI's Gale Simon and Don Bryan indicated that If an employee becomes eligible for COBRA / N.J. Continuation the Adult Child who is already covered under the Chapter 375 program (Dependents to age 30) can remain on continuation as well.
- Additional changes have been proposed by the NJDOBI on the "Producer Licensing Model Act" that will have a big impact on your NJ Producer's License. The proposed changes are scheduled to be implemented on January 1st, 2007. The changes are as follows:
 1. Your license will expire and need to be renewed every 2 Years.
 2. You will need to accumulate 24 CE Credits during that 2-year period. Three of the 24 credits will need to be in Ethics.
 3. Your license expiration will be the last day of the producer's birth month. For business entities the expiration will be May 31st. The current expiration date is the end of the four year license period.
 4. Changes in addresses, phone numbers, and emails must be reported within 30 days.
 5. There will be an additional charge for paper filings instead of Internet transactions.

SEH Board Meeting Notes

The SEH Board Meeting was held on 8/9/06. There was one major item that was resolved at that meeting. The SEH Board, subject to the provision that there are no comments received before the close of the comment period on The 15th of August, has adopted the Chapter 375 regulations. The one issue that came up on the dependent to age 30 were some questions from Jack Kalosy regarding the administration of the law. In a Commissioners Advisory Board Meeting that Jack Kalosy attended NJDOBI's Gale Simon and Don Bryan reversed an earlier decision by indicating that If an employee becomes eligible for COBRA / N.J. Continuation the Adult Child who is already covered under the Chapter 375 program (Dependents to age 30) can remain on continuation as well. The questions I asked were:

What cost will the affected above age dependents be charged for this "COBRA"? The answer was, they will continue under the terms of the Chapter 375 law.

What period of time will the above age dependent be allowed to stay on the COBRA plan? The answer was, they can stay on as long as they and the employee remain qualified.

Can the above age dependent purchase the COBRA program stand-alone? The answer was no.

Legislative Update – Federal

[H.R. 4157](#) the House passed the “Health Information Technology Promotion Act” on July 27, 2006.

This bill, among other things, would protect people's privacy while making electronic exchange of medical information possible. It also calls for the HHS Secretary to establish a new diagnosis coding system to replace the current 30 year old system.

The bill passed the house by a vote of 270 to 148. It was a largely partisan vote with our New Jersey delegation voting down party lines. The Republicans voted for the measure with Democrats voting against.

The bill now goes to the Senate to be placed on the legislative calendar.

[S 2382](#) “Small Employers Health Benefits Program Act of 2006” was introduced in the US Senate on March 7, 2006.

This bill calls for the Office of Personnel Management to administer a separate health care program for non-federal employees who are either self-employed or employees of a small business with less than a 100 employees.

The bill will allow the office to contract with health insurance carriers who would offer a wide range of plans including those plans currently being offered to federal employees.

Senator Durbin (D) of Illinois introduced this bill. Two of the 28 co-sponsors happen to be Senators Lautenberg and Menendez of New Jersey. The bill has gone to the Senate Finance Committee.

[H.R. 4](#) “Pension Protection Act”

This bill was passed in the House on July 28th, 2006. Noticeably absent from this bill was a provision to rollover unused Flexible Spending Account (FSA) money to the next calendar year.

[Capitol Conference 2007](#)

This year's conference will be held at a new venue, the JW Marriott. The date for the conference will be Monday, January 29th through Wednesday January 31st, 2007.

-
- Thanks,

Attached, please find the following two bulletins issued by the Department of Banking & Insurance:

Bulletin No. 06-16

P.L. 2005, c. 352 - Health Claims Authorization, Processing and Payment Act - Forms, Effective Date, and an Update on Arbitration (DOBI blt06_16.pdf)

Forms:

Consent and Authorization (For UM Appeals and Arbitration)/Notice of Revocation of Consent (For UM Appeals) (DOBI 352application.doc)

Application to Appeal a Claims Determination (DOBI 352 consentform.doc)

Bulletin No. 06-17

P.L. 2005, c. 352 - Health Claims Authorization, Processing and Payment Act (CHAPPA) - Form (DOBI blt06_17.pdf)

Forms:

Independent Health Care Appeals Program Application (DOBI 352ihcapform.doc)

Notices of Intent to File a UM Appeal – Stage 1 – Stage 2 – Stage 3 (DOBI 352noticesf1.doc, DOBI 352noticesf2.doc, DOBI 352noticesf3.doc)

Copies of information relating to these bulletins can be found at this web site:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/bulletin.shtml>

NJAHU Tracking List

Health Underwriters (2006-2007)

Bill: A151 Aca (1R)

Sponsors: Vandervalk (R39); Cohen (D20); Quigley (D32); Gordon (D38) +1

Summary: Revises health wellness insurance benefits.

Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance

Related: 2006:S1055; 2004:A296; 2004:S1300; 2002:A2412; 2002:S1746

Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading

Status: 06/19/2006 – 2nd reading in the Assembly

History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

03/21/2006 – Transferred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.

06/19/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.

Position: Monitor

Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose per Jack Kalosy on the grounds that it increases benefits and removes the maximum on preventive care.

9-9-04 Legislative Committee has made this a priority, position paper to be drafted.

6-19-06 Change position to Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.

Bill: A153

Sponsors: Vandervalk (R39)

Summary: Permits continued NJ FamilyCare eligibility for parent whose child turns 19 under certain circumstances.

Subjects: Human Services-Children; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance

Related: 2004:A302; 2004:S425; 2002:A3097; 2002:S2104

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee

History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.

Position: Monitor

Bill: A162

Sponsors: Vandervalk (R39); Gordon (D38) +1

Summary: Establishes Health Care Professional Regulation Study Commission and requires certain State professional licensing boards to take certain actions.

Subjects: Commissions; Health-Professionals

Related: 2004:A1913; 2002:A3985

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee

History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.

Position: Monitor

Notes: 1-22-04 Added per Dave Mordo.

Bill: A289

Sponsors: Cohen (D20); Roberts (D5); Bateman (R16) +23

Summary: "Grace's Law;" requires health insurers, State Health Benefits Program and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for hearing aids for covered persons 15 and younger.

Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Human Services-Children

Related: 2006:S1524; 2004:A1766; 2002:A3387; 2002:A3488; 2002:S2605

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 06/12/2006 – Assembly Appropriations Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
06/12/2006 – Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 6-10-06 Oppose per Doug Lubenow on the grounds that it will negatively impact premiums.

Bill: A291
Sponsors: Cohen (D20)
Summary: Requires small employer health insurance carriers to offer coverage for treatment of infertility.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S216; 2004:A1914; 2004:S2105
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 9-9-04 Legislative Committee has made this a priority, position paper to be drafted.

Bill: A294
Sponsors: Cohen (D20); Manzo (D31); Gordon (D38)
Summary: Requires managed care carriers to provide certain health care providers with fee schedules.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S529; 2004:A2116; 2004:S1314; 2002:A2926; 2002:S317; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: A310
Sponsors: Cohen (D20)
Summary: Prohibits participating providers under managed care plans from charging certain fees; establishes penalties therefor.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S1373; 2004:A3439; 2004:S1171; 2002:S2687
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 2-28-05 Support per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A318
Sponsors: Cohen (D20); Gordon (D38) +3
Summary: Requires certain disclosures from carriers; establishes new health care claims payment and appeals process; limits use of utilization management under certain circumstances.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A4335; 2004:S2816
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.
10-6-05 Monitor per Legislative Management Team.

Bill: A472
Sponsors: Green (D22); Cryan (D20) +14
Summary: Requires health care facilities to report certain information about their health care staff to their respective professional boards or DHSS.
Subjects: Health-Professionals
Related: 2006:S55; 2004:A1834; 2004:S649; 2002:A4054; 2002:S2851

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: A649

Sponsors: Connors, C. (R9); Rumpf (R9)
Summary: Requires health insurers to cover Lyme disease.
Subjects: Health-Disease; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A912; 2004:S1308; 2002:A984; 2002:A1328; 2000:A690; 2000:A994; 2000:S626; 1998:A392; 1998:S915; 1996:A1004; 1996:S861; 1994:A849; 1994:S271; 1992:A2553; 1992:S1297
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo on the grounds that it allows coverage for "experimental" treatment which could be costly

Bill: A724

Sponsors: Russo (R40); Cohen (D20) +1
Summary: Extends certain federal income tax advantages of individual health savings accounts to individual taxpayers under the New Jersey gross income tax.
Subjects: Taxation-Personal Income Tax
Related: 2006:S1944; 2004:A3583; 2004:S2774
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Appropriations Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 12-15-04 Support per Jack Kalosy. Position paper prepared by J. Kalosy on file.

Bill: A752

Sponsors: Gordon (D38); Manzo (D31); Cohen (D20)
Summary: Establishes "New Jersey Health Care Access Study Commission."
Subjects: Commissions; Health-General And Miscellaneous
Related: 2004:A1986; 2004:S1908
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/26/2006 – Withdrawn from the files
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
01/26/2006 – Withdrawn from the files.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: A780

Sponsors: Caraballo (D29); Vas (D19); Cruz-Perez (D5) +2
Summary: Clarifies that advertisements by persons licensed to practice medicine and surgery are subject to the Consumer Fraud Act.
Subjects: Consumer Affairs
Related: 2006:S86; 2004:A2088; 2004:S1972
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Consumer Affairs
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Consumer Affairs.
Position: Oppose

Bill: A932

Sponsors: Gusciora (D15); Van Drew (D1); Albano (D1); Gordon (D38); Greenstein (D14) +4
Summary: Directs Commissioner of DHS to prepare annual Access to Employer-Based Health Insurance for NJ FamilyCare Enrollees report.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S539; 2004:A4131; 2004:S2820

Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 06/22/2006 – Substituted by another bill
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
02/23/2006 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
06/22/2006 – Substituted by S-539 (1R).
Position: Monitor
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.

Bill: A971
Sponsors: Stender (D22); Voss (D38)
Summary: Requires health insurers to provide health benefits coverage for treatment of pathological gambling.
Subjects: Gambling-General And Miscellaneous; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A637; 2002:A3371
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 04/28/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
04/28/2006 – Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission reviewed and recommended to not enact.
Position: Oppose
Priority: Oppose Actively

Bill: A1003
Sponsors: Prieto (D32); Cohen (D20); Rumpf (R9); Connors, C. (R9); Scalera (D36) +2
Summary: Requires that chiropractic physicians, podiatric physicians, allopathic physicians, and osteopathic physicians be reimbursed at same rate as other health care providers under various health and accident plans.
Subjects: Health-Professionals
Related: 2006:S57; 2004:A947; 2004:S1690; 2002:A1019; 2002:S2815; 2000:A1883; 1998:A411; 1996:A2955
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 02/23/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
02/23/2006 – Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
Position: Oppose
Category: Health Underwriters

Bill: A1011
Sponsors: Prieto (D32); Stack (D33); Cohen (D20); Panter (D12) +9
Summary: Requires health benefits coverage for orthotic and prosthetic appliances and provides reimbursement therefor.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S502; 2004:A2774; 2004:S2752
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 06/12/2006 – 2nd reading in the Assembly
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
06/12/2006 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.
10-6-05 Oppose per Legislative Management Team (mandate).

Bill: A1143
Sponsors: Dancer (R30); Malone (R30)
Summary: Requires health insurers to provide coverage for hearing aids.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S413; 2004:A2220; 2004:S218; 2002:A2276; 2002:S864
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo
2-19-04 Change to monitor per Jack Kalosy

Bill: A1171

Sponsors: Corodemus (R11)
Summary: Defines routine foot care services under an insurance policy.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A1106; 2004:S692; 2002:A1371; 2002:S2715; 2000:A1941; 2000:S787
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: A1191

Sponsors: Diegnan (D18); Vas (D19); Manzo (D31) +1
Summary: Requires insurance coverage for magnetic resonance imaging for women at high risk for breast cancer.
Subjects: Health-Disease; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance; Women
Related: 2004:A2168; 2002:A4051
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 2-16-04 Change position from monitor to support per Dave Mordo

Bill: A1208

Sponsors: Diegnan (D18); Chivukula (D17) +2
Summary: Requires health insurance carriers to use standard explanation of benefits form.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A3719
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 1-23-05 Support per Dave Mordo.

Bill: A1282

Sponsors: Manzo (D31)
Summary: Allows the deduction of the costs of providing employee health benefits in calculating the corporation business tax alternative minimum assessment.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance; Taxation-Business Taxes
Related: 2006:S893; 2004:A3967; 2004:S2793
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Commerce and Economic Development
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Commerce and Economic Development.
Position: Support
Notes: 5-18-05 Support per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A1285

Sponsors: Manzo (D31)
Summary: Establishes "Regional Network Health Benefits Plan Pilot Program."
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A4042
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 5-18-05 Oppose per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A1367

Sponsors: Quigley (D32); Van Drew (D1); Prieto (D32) +2
Summary: Provides gross income tax deduction for health care plan costs.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance; Taxation-Personal Income Tax
Related: 2004:A1181; 2004:S2165; 2002:A1118; 2000:A599; 1998:A1041; 1996:A355; 1994:A3165

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 1-7-05 Support per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A1397
Sponsors: Quigley (D32); Manzo (D31) +4
Summary: Provides in-network benefits to patient with disability for services provided by out-of-network provider under certain circumstances.
Subjects: Human Services-Disabled; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S674; 2004:A336; 2002:A2759; 2002:S1919
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
Position: Support

Bill: A1509
Sponsors: Oliver (D34)
Summary: Revises operations of Individual Health Coverage and Small Employer Health Benefits programs.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A162; 2002:A1392; 2000:A1606; 2000:S728; 1998:A3569; 1998:S2216
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Priority: Support if Amended
Category: Health Underwriters

Bill: A1534
Sponsors: Oliver (D34) +2
Summary: Prohibits hospital from denying admission or services to patient based on patient's HMO coverage, and requires HMO's to cover legitimate emergency health care.
Subjects: Health-Facilities; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A1883; 2002:A1715; 2002:S537; 2000:A131; 2000:S750; 1998:A3429
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: A1615
Sponsors: Conaway (D7) +1
Summary: Requires health insurers to cover costs of tobacco use cessation services.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A1520; 2002:A3855
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: A1617
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Van Drew (D1)
Summary: Prevents managed care plan from denying coverage for certain health care services provided to covered person solely because covered person did not present referral to provider who performed services.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A1522; 2002:A3913
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Position: Monitor
Comments: 12-14-03 Added as monitor per Dave Mordo.

Bill: A1626
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Cohen (D20); Bateman (R16)
Summary: Defers expiration date of law permitting physicians and dentists to engage in joint negotiations with insurance carriers.
Subjects: Health-Professionals; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A3722
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 03/13/2006 – 2nd reading in the Assembly
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
03/13/2006 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 1-23-05 Oppose per Dave Mordo.

Bill: A1628
Sponsors: Conaway (D7)
Summary: Requires SHBP to cover prostate cancer screening.
Subjects: Health-Disease; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance; Public Employees-Benefits
Related: 2004:A4028
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 03/03/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
03/03/2006 – Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission reviewed and recommended to not enact.
Position: Support
Notes: 5-18-05 Support per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A1629
Sponsors: Conaway (D7)
Summary: Extends charity care payments to physicians providing hospital-based charity care.
Subjects: Health-Facilities; Health-Finance
Related: 2004:A4111
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 5-18-05 Monitor per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A1631
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Chivukula (D17); Cohen (D20)
Summary: Deletes prior authorization requirements by certain insurers for accessing certain health care services.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A4179
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 05/18/2006 – 2nd reading in the Assembly
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
05/18/2006 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 6-15-05 Monitor pending review.

Bill: A1640 Acs (ACS)
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Diegnan (D18); Prieto (D32) +5
Summary: "Long-Term Care Partnership Program Act"; establishes Long-Term Care Partnership Program in DHS.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Human Services-Medicaid And Medicare
Related: 2006:S538; 2004:S2819
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 05/11/2006 – Assembly Appropriations Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.

05/11/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee substitute, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Position: Support

Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.
10-6-05 Support per Legislative Management Team.

Bill: A1705

Sponsors: Burzichelli (D3); Fisher (D3); Cohen (D20); Johnson (D37); Greenstein (D14) +10
Summary: Requires responsible business practices by large employers regarding wages and benefits.
Subjects: Labor
Related: 2006:S477; 2004:A4105; 2004:S2550
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Labor Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Labor Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 2-7-06 Monitor per Doug Lubenow.

Bill: A1904

Sponsors: Burzichelli (D3); Van Drew (D1); Fisher (D3); Johnson (D37); Cohen (D20); Scalera (D36); Diegnan (D18) +17
Summary: Establishes New Jersey Rx Program to reduce prescription drug prices.
Subjects: Health-Pharmaceuticals
Related: 2006:S464; 2004:A1593; 2004:S590; 2002:A3873; 2002:S2752
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
Position: Monitor
Comments: 11-28-03 Added as monitor per Dennis Cuccinelli.
12-13-03 Added as monitor per Dave Mordo.

Bill: A1949

Sponsors: Wisniewski (D19); Conaway (D7) +1
Summary: Requires health insurers to cover well baby visits during the first two years of life.
Subjects: Human Services-Children; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S812; 2004:A2260; 2004:S688; 2002:A374; 2002:S2095; 2000:A1692; 1998:A1939
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support

Bill: A1975

Sponsors: Cryan (D20)
Summary: Requires health insurance coverage for hair headpieces for patients receiving chemotherapy treatment for cancer.
Subjects: Health-Disease; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S375; 2004:A2014; 2004:S508; 2002:A637; 2002:S392; 2000:A3280; 2000:S1741
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: A1999

Sponsors: Cryan (D20); Cohen (D20)
Summary: Repeals certain requirements for certain prescription drug plans.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Health-Pharmaceuticals
Related: 2006:S1239; 2004:A3955; 2004:S2427
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 5-18-05 Oppose per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A2044**Sponsors:** Gregg (R24)**Summary:** Allows certain self-employed business owners to deduct their own pension plan contributions from gross income under the gross income tax.**Subjects:** Pensions-General And Miscellaneous; Taxation-Personal Income Tax**Related:** 2004:A237; 2002:A1593; 2002:S367; 2000:A3395; 2000:S1666; 2000:S1823**Progress:** 1st House: Referred to Committee**Status:** 01/17/2006 – Assembly Commerce and Economic Development**History:** 01/17/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Commerce and Economic Development.**Position:** Monitor**Notes:** 2-16-04 Monitor per Dave Mordo

Bill: A2056**Sponsors:** Cohen (D20); Van Drew (D1); Bateman (R16); Gordon (D38)**Summary:** The "Health Insurance Affordability and Accessibility Reform Act."**Subjects:** Insurance-Life And Health Insurance**Related:** 2006:S503; 2004:A3359; 2004:S2773**Progress:** 1st House: Referred to Committee**Status:** 01/26/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee**History:** 01/26/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.**Position:** Support**Notes:** Conditionally support. Would like to revise language allowing employees to opt out in favor of individual market place as it will hinder employers making the 75% participation to purchase group plans.

Bill: A2062**Sponsors:** Gusciora (D15); Cohen (D20)**Summary:** Requires health insurers to cover Hepatitis B vaccination costs.**Subjects:** Health-Disease; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance**Related:** 2006:S1457; 2004:A2162; 2004:S686; 2002:A300; 2002:S498; 2000:A3530; 2000:S2413**Progress:** 1st House: Referred to Committee**Status:** 01/26/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee**History:** 01/26/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.**Position:** Oppose**Notes:** 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: A2233**Sponsors:** Conaway (D7)**Summary:** Deems utilization management decisions on behalf of certain insurers to be practice of health care profession.**Subjects:** Health-Professionals**Related:** 2004:A4182**Progress:** 1st House: Referred to Committee**Status:** 01/30/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee**History:** 01/30/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.**Position:** Monitor**Notes:** 6-15-05 Monitor pending review.

Bill: A2463**Sponsors:** Gordon (D38); Conaway (D7); Manzo (D31) +15**Summary:** Establishes voluntary Statewide physician joint purchasing alliance.**Subjects:** Health-Professionals**Related:** 2006:S675; 2004:A340; 2002:A3157; 2002:S2266**Progress:** 1st House: Referred to Committee**Status:** 02/06/2006 – Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee**History:** 02/06/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.**Position:** Monitor**Notes:** 11-10-04 Change from oppose to monitor per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: A2512

Sponsors: Gordon (D38); Johnson (D37); Manzo (D31); Burzichelli (D3); Biondi (R16); Greenstein (D14) +13
Summary: Revises statutory mental health coverage requirements and requires all health insurers and SHBP to cover treatment for alcoholism and other substance-use disorders under same terms and conditions as for other diseases or illnesses.
Subjects: Health-Drug And Alcohol Abuse; Human Services-Mental Health; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance; Public Employees-Benefits
Related: 2006:S807; 2004:A333; 2004:S544; 2002:A2379; 2002:A2487; 2002:S1520; 2002:S1633
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 06/19/2006 – Assembly Appropriations Committee
History: 02/09/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
06/19/2006 – Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 5-3-05 Monitor per Dave Mordo.
6-19-06 Oppose per Doug Lubenow based on the grounds that it will increase premiums.

Bill: A2513

Sponsors: Cohen (D20); Quigley (D32)
Summary: "Expanding Access to Health Care Act"; requires certain large employers to either provide specified level of health benefits to employees or pay assessment to State.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:S1320
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 02/09/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 02/09/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 2-7-06 Monitor per Doug Lubenow.

Bill: A2714

Sponsors: Van Drew (D1); Manzo (D31)
Summary: Prohibits insurer offering managed care plan from denying participation in its network to a health care provider willing to meet its contract terms.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A1954; 2002:A3878
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 06/12/2006 – Combined with another bill
History: 02/27/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
06/12/2006 – Combined with A-1616/A-1903 (ACS).
Position: Monitor
Comments: 12-14-03 Added as monitor per Dave Mordo.

Bill: A2823 Aca (1R)

Sponsors: Whelan (D2); Greenwald (D6); Albano (D1); Van Drew (D1); Johnson (D37) +25
Summary: "Independence, Dignity and Choice in Long-Term Care Act"; reallocates State long-term care expenditures.
Subjects: Human Services-Medicaid And Medicare; Senior Citizens
Related: 2006:S1642
Progress: Pamphlet Law
Status: 06/21/2006 – Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor
History: 03/09/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
05/11/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
06/08/2006 – Passed in Assembly 79-0-0. Received in Senate w/o committee reference, 2nd reading in Senate.
06/19/2006 – Substituted for S-1642 (1R). Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 38-0.
06/21/2006 – Signed by the Governor P.L.2006, c.23.
Position: Support
Notes: 6-5-06 Support per Doug Lubenow.

Bill: A3040

Sponsors: Cohen (D20)
Summary: Establishes the "Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact."
Subjects: Insurance-General And Miscellaneous; Interstate Relations
Related: 2006:S949; 2004:A2912; 2004:S1631

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 05/15/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 05/15/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 5-22-06 Support per Dave Mordo pending further review.

Bill: A3239 Aca (1R)
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Gordon (D38); Greenstein (D14); Munoz (R21)
Summary: Permits person covered by managed care plan to receive covered services from in-network provider without obtaining referral from primary care physician.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 06/12/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 06/08/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.
06/12/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 6-9-06 Oppose per Doug Lubenow and Dave Mordo on the grounds that "open access" plans already exist and that this would eliminate HMO's and would place everyone in PPO's or the like at higher costs.

Bill: A3366
Sponsors: Cohen (D20)
Summary: Creates "New Jersey Catastrophic Health Care Claims Reinsurance Program."
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A4264
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 06/26/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 06/26/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 7-5-05 Oppose per Dave Mordo and Jack Kalosy.
10-6-05 Change to Monitor per Legislative Management Team pending further review. Seek to add NJAHU member to Board of Directors.

Bill: A3431
Sponsors: Cohen (D20)
Summary: Establishes maximum premium rate for certain dependent health benefits coverage at 45% of single coverage.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 07/04/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 07/04/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 7-4-06 Oppose per Legislative Team.

Bill: A4716 Aca (1R)
Sponsors: Pou (D35); Watson Coleman (D15) +1
Summary: Increases annual assessment on net written premiums of HMOs to support charity care from 1% to 2%.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A4730; 2006:S2000
Progress: Pamphlet Law
Status: 07/08/2006 – Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor
History: 07/05/2006 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Budget Committee.
07/07/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
07/08/2006 – Emergency resolution 79-0-0 (Watson Coleman). Passed in Assembly 47-32-0. Received in Senate w/o committee reference, 2nd reading in Senate. Emergency resolution 40-0 (Kenny). Substituted for S-2000. Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 22-17. Signed by the Governor P.L.2006, c.43.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 7-7-06 Oppose per LMT.

Bill: A4730

Sponsors: Roberts (D5)
Summary: Increases annual assessment on net written premiums of HMOs to support charity care from 1% to 1.5%.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A4716; 2006:S2000
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 07/05/2006 – 2nd reading in the Assembly
History: 07/05/2006 – Introduced, 1st reading w/o committee reference, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 7-7-06 Oppose per LMT.

Bill: S55

Sponsors: Kavanaugh (R16)
Summary: Requires health care facilities to report certain information about their health care staff to their respective professional boards or DHSS.
Subjects: Health-Professionals
Related: 2006:A472; 2004:A1834; 2004:S649; 2002:A4054; 2002:S2851
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: S57

Sponsors: Kavanaugh (R16) +1
Summary: Requires that chiropractic physicians, podiatric physicians, allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists, and other health care providers be reimbursed at same rate for the same service.
Subjects: Health-Professionals
Related: 2006:A1003; 2004:A947; 2004:S1690; 2002:A1019; 2002:S2815; 2000:A1883; 1998:A411; 1996:A2955
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose
Category: Health Underwriters

Bill: S86

Sponsors: Scutari (D22)
Summary: Clarifies that advertisements by licensed professionals are subject to the Consumer Fraud Act.
Subjects: Consumer Affairs
Related: 2006:A780; 2004:A2088; 2004:S1972
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose

Bill: S216

Sponsors: Karcher (D12)
Summary: Requires small employer health insurance carriers to offer coverage for treatment of infertility.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A291; 2004:A1914; 2004:S2105
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 1-25-05 Oppose per Dave Mordo.

Bill: S375

Sponsors: Sacco (D32); Karcher (D12) +4
Summary: Requires health insurance coverage for hair headpieces for patients receiving chemotherapy treatment for cancer.
Subjects: Health-Disease; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A1975; 2004:A2014; 2004:S508; 2002:A637; 2002:S392; 2000:A3280; 2000:S1741

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: S413
Sponsors: Singer (R30); Vitale (D19) +3
Summary: Requires health insurers to provide coverage for hearing aids.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A1143; 2004:A2220; 2004:S218; 2002:A2276; 2002:S864
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 2-16-04 Support per Dave Mordo

Bill: S422
Sponsors: Singer (R30)
Summary: Concerns rating systems for individual and small employer health benefits plans.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:S1572
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 5-11-04 Support per Jack Kalosy.
9-9-04 Legislative Committee has made this a priority, position paper to be drafted.

Bill: S477 Scs (SCS)
Sponsors: Sweeney (D3); Vitale (D19); Coniglio (D38); Buono (D18) +4
Summary: The "Responsible Employer Act."
Subjects: Labor
Related: 2006:A1705; 2004:A4105; 2004:S2550
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 05/11/2006 – Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Labor Committee.
05/11/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee substitute, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 2-7-06 Monitor per Doug Lubenow.

Bill: S502
Sponsors: Gill (D34)
Summary: Requires health benefits coverage for orthotic and prosthetic appliances and provides reimbursement therefor.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A1011; 2004:A2774; 2004:S2752
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.
10-6-05 Oppose per Legislative Management Team (mandate).

Bill: S503
Sponsors: Gill (D34); Adler (D6) +2
Summary: The "Health Insurance Affordability and Accessibility Reform Act."
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A2056; 2004:A3359; 2004:S2773

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 9-30-05 Conditionally support per our position on the Assembly version. Would like to revise language allowing employees to opt out in favor of individual market place as it will hinder employers making the 75% participation to purchase group plans.

Bill: S529
Sponsors: Buono (D18) +1
Summary: Requires managed care carriers to provide certain health care providers with fee schedules.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A294; 2004:A2116; 2004:S1314; 2002:A2926; 2002:S317; 2000:A3952; 2000:S1735
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 02/27/2006 – Withdrawn from the files
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
02/27/2006 – Withdrawn from the files.
Position: Monitor

Bill: S538
Sponsors: Buono (D18); Vitale (D19) +1
Summary: "Long-Term Care Partnership Program Act"; establishes Long-Term Care Partnership Program in DHSS.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Human Services-Medicaid And Medicare
Related: 2006:A1640; 2004:S2819
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.
10-6-05 Support per Legislative Management Team.

Bill: S539 ScaAa (2R)
Sponsors: Buono (D18); Coniglio (D38); Gusciora (D15); Van Drew (D1); Albano (D1); Gordon (D38); Greenstein (D14) +11
Summary: Directs Commissioners of DHS and DHSS to prepare annual report on Access to Employer-Based Health Insurance for certain employed recipients of State health assistance programs.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A932; 2004:A4131; 2004:S2820
Progress: Governor
Status: 07/08/2006 – Passed in both houses
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
02/06/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
02/27/2006 – Passed in Senate 36-0. Received in Assembly w/o committee reference, 2nd reading in Assembly.
06/22/2006 – Substituted for A-932. Amended on Assembly floor, 2nd reading in Assembly (Van Drew).
07/08/2006 – Passed in Assembly 61-18-0. Received in Senate, 2nd reading in Senate to concur with Assembly amendments. Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 39-0.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.

Bill: S540
Sponsors: Buono (D18); Coniglio (D38) +1
Summary: Increases minimum loss ratio for individual and small employer-health benefits plans from 75% to 80%.
Subjects: Commerce And Economic Development; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:S2821
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.
10-6-05 Oppose per Legislative Management Team.

Bill: S593

Sponsors: Kyrillos (R13)
Summary: Establishes limits for certain damages in medical malpractice actions.
Subjects: Civil Actions-Tort Liability; Health-Professionals
Related: 2004:S2762
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 9-30-05 Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.

Bill: S627

Sponsors: Girgenti (D35); Bucco (R25) +1
Summary: Requires health insurers, Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare to provide coverage for comprehensive program of pediatric feeding and swallowing services.
Subjects: Human Services-Children; Human Services-Medicaid And Medicare; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A1574; 2004:S528; 2002:A3146; 2002:S2200
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: S668

Sponsors: Kean, T. (R21); Scutari (D22) +1
Summary: Provides that advertisements by persons licensed, registered, appointed or certified to practice profession or occupation are subject to consumer fraud act.
Subjects: Consumer Affairs
Related: 2004:S1259
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: S674

Sponsors: Weinberg (D37)
Summary: Provides in-network benefits to patient with disability for services provided by out-of-network provider under certain circumstance.
Subjects: Human Services-Disabled; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A1397; 2004:A336; 2002:A2759; 2002:S1919
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Support

Bill: S675

Sponsors: Weinberg (D37)
Summary: Establishes voluntary Statewide physician joint purchasing alliance.
Subjects: Health-Professionals
Related: 2006:A2463; 2004:A340; 2002:A3157; 2002:S2266
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 11-10-04 Change from oppose to monitor per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: S683

Sponsors: Weinberg (D37)
Summary: Establishes voluntary Statewide joint purchasing alliance for persons covered by individual health benefits plans.

Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A2006; 2002:A3621
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: Oppose per Jack Kalosy on 6-10-03

Bill: S686
Sponsors: Weinberg (D37)
Summary: Requires binding arbitration in contract disputes between hospitals and health insurance carriers.
Subjects: Health-Facilities; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A2816
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: S807
Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Buono (D18) +3
Summary: Revises statutory mental health coverage requirements and requires all health insurers and SHBP to cover treatment for alcoholism and other substance-use disorders under same terms and conditions as for other diseases or illnesses.
Subjects: Health-Drug And Alcohol Abuse; Human Services-Mental Health; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance; Public Employees-Benefits
Related: 2006:A2512; 2004:A333; 2004:S544; 2002:A2379; 2002:A2487; 2002:S1520; 2002:S1633
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 01/26/2006 – Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
01/26/2006 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 5-3-05 Monitor per Dave Mordo.
6-19-06 Oppose per Doug Lubenow based on the grounds that it will increase premiums.

Bill: S812
Sponsors: Vitale (D19)
Summary: Requires health insurers to cover well baby visits during the first two years of life.
Subjects: Human Services-Children; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A1949; 2004:A2260; 2004:S688; 2002:A374; 2002:S2095; 2000:A1692; 1998:A1939
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/10/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/10/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Support

Bill: S893
Sponsors: Bucco (R25)
Summary: Allows the deduction of the costs of providing employee health benefits in calculating the corporation business tax alternative minimum assessment.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance; Taxation-Business Taxes
Related: 2006:A1282; 2004:A3967; 2004:S2793
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/17/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/17/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 9-28-05 Support per position on Assembly Version.

Bill: S923
Sponsors: Bucco (R25)
Summary: Requires health insurers to provide coverage for prosthetic appliances obtained from any licensed prosthetist.

Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:S1202; 2002:S262; 2000:S1692
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/17/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/17/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 3-2-04 Monitor per Jack Kalosy

Bill: S949
Sponsors: Gill (D34)
Summary: Establishes the "Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact."
Subjects: Insurance-General And Miscellaneous; Interstate Relations
Related: 2006:A3040; 2004:A2912; 2004:S1631
Progress: 2nd House: Referred to Committee
Status: 06/19/2006 – Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/17/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
03/06/2006 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
06/19/2006 – Passed in Senate 38-0. Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 5-22-06 Support per Dave Mordo pending further review.

Bill: S1055
Sponsors: Buono (D18)
Summary: Revises health wellness insurance benefits.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A151; 2004:A296; 2004:S1300; 2002:A2412; 2002:S1746
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/26/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/26/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Monitor
Notes: 3-17-04 Oppose per Jack Kalosy on the grounds that it increases benefits and removes the maximum on preventive care.
9-9-04 Legislative Committee has made this a priority, position paper to be drafted.
6-19-06 Change position to Monitor per Doug Lubenow pending further review.

Bill: S1222
Sponsors: Inverso (R14)
Summary: Requires coverage for certain nonprescription formulas under certain health benefits plans, including SHBP.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:S107; 2002:A2351; 2002:S1499
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/30/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/30/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 11-12-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo.

Bill: S1239
Sponsors: Doria (D31)
Summary: Repeals certain requirements for certain prescription drug plans.
Subjects: Health-General And Miscellaneous; Health-Pharmaceuticals
Related: 2006:A1999; 2004:A3955; 2004:S2427
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/30/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/30/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 5-18-05 Oppose per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: S1320

Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Buono (D18)
Summary: "Expanding Access to Health Care Act"; requires certain large employers to either provide specified level of health benefits to employees or pay assessment to State.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A2513
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 05/11/2006 – Combined with another bill
History: 02/06/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Labor Committee.
05/11/2006 – Combined with S-477 (SCS).
Position: Monitor
Notes: 2-7-06 Monitor per Doug Lubenow.

Bill: S1373
Sponsors: Rice (D28)
Summary: Prohibits participating providers under managed care plans from charging certain fees; establishes penalties therefor.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A310; 2004:A3439; 2004:S1171; 2002:S2687
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 02/09/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee
History: 02/09/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Position: Support
Notes: 2-28-05 Support per Jack Kalosy.

Bill: S1457
Sponsors: Vitale (D19)
Summary: Requires health insurers to cover Hepatitis B vaccination costs.
Subjects: Health-Disease; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2006:A2062; 2004:A2162; 2004:S686; 2002:A300; 2002:S498; 2000:A3530; 2000:S2413
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 02/27/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 02/27/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: 2-16-04 Oppose per Dave Mordo

Bill: S1640
Sponsors: Turner (D15)
Summary: Prohibits HMO from imposing certain restrictions regarding provision of health care services to enrollees.
Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance
Related: 2004:A2675; 2004:S882; 2002:A909; 2002:S962; 2000:A288; 2000:S899; 1998:A326; 1998:S734; 1996:A2499
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 03/13/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 03/13/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Position: Monitor
Category: Health Underwriters

Bill: S1642 Sca (1R)
Sponsors: Weinberg (D37); Asselta (R1) +7
Summary: "Independence, Dignity and Choice in Long-Term Care Act"; reallocates State long-term care expenditures.
Subjects: Human Services-Medicaid And Medicare; Senior Citizens
Related: 2006:A2823
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 06/19/2006 – Substituted by another bill
History: 03/13/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
06/08/2006 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
06/19/2006 – Substituted by A-2823 (1R).
Position: Support
Notes: 6-5-06 Support per Doug Lubenow.

Bill: S1944

Sponsors: Kean, T. (R21)

Summary: Extends certain federal income tax advantages of individual health savings accounts to individual taxpayers under the New Jersey gross income tax.

Subjects: Taxation-Personal Income Tax

Related: 2006:A724; 2004:A3583; 2004:S2774

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 06/08/2006 – Senate Commerce Committee

History: 06/08/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Position: Support

Notes: 9-30-05 Support per our position on the Assembly version.

Bill: S2000

Sponsors: Kenny (D33)

Summary: Increases annual assessment on net written premiums of HMOs to support charity care from 1% to 2%.

Subjects: Insurance-Life And Health Insurance

Related: 2006:A4716; 2006:A4730

Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading

Status: 07/08/2006 – Substituted by another bill

History: 07/07/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

07/08/2006 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate. Substituted by A-4716 (1R).

Position: Oppose

Notes: 7-7-06 Oppose per LMT.

Bill: S2048

Sponsors: Adler (D6)

Summary: Revises duties and function of Mandated Health Benefits Advisory Commission.

Subjects: Commissions; Insurance-Life And Health Insurance

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 06/19/2006 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 06/19/2006 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Position: Support

Notes: 6-20-06 Support per Doug Lubenow pending further review.

Respectfully Submitted,

NJ Legislative team