

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Monnes Anderson

Nays: 0

Exc.: Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/5, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires an insurer that elects to communicate by electronic means to offer an individual or small group member the option to receive specified information by regular mail. Allows insurers to send notices electronically, without complying with other governing statutes relating to electronic communications to consumers. Prohibits electronic communication of notices of cancellation or nonrenewal.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Improved and faster customer access
- Health insurance market moving to all-electronic communication
- Current administrative costs
- Industry efforts to be environmentally sensitive
- Concerns relating to how system will impact providers
- Uniform Electronic Transfer Act
- Current notice in writing requirement
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows insurers to send notices electronically, without complying with other governing statutes relating to electronic communications to consumers, provided the insured is given the opportunity to select paper notices when applying for and renewing coverage

BACKGROUND: Currently, ORS 743.777 specifies that insurers may communicate electronically with the insured. Proponents of Senate Bill 166-A assert that by allowing electronic communication between health insurers and the customers, while at the same time allowing the customer to choose traditional paper/mail communications, will provide the customer with faster more efficient access, while saving administrative costs for the insurers.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.