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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Feldman DATE TYPED 2/2/04 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Cancer Clinical Trial Patient Coverage SB 73/aSPAC

ANALYST Garcia

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
		NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From
Public Regulation Commission, Insurance Divison

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee Amendment adds the following language: “Section 2. DELAYED REPEAL.—Section 1 of this act is repealed on July 1, 2009.” This addition replaces the previous language that repealed the act on July 1, 2004. Consequently, the amendment delays the repeal of the cancer clinical trial period through 2009.

Synopsis of Original Bill

The bill repeals the delayed repeal of required coverage of patient costs incurred during cancer clinical trials.

Significant Issues

Prior to the passage of Laws 2001, Chapter 27, Section 1, many insurers excluded from their benefits medical coverage for individuals who were participating in cancer clinical trials. Patients participating in these trials don’t usually incur any medical cost associated with the trials.

However, they do often incur medical cost associated with other medical treatment. It is these other costs incurred by the patients that are required to be covered by Laws 2001, Chapter 27.

Coverage of cancer clinical trials was initially limited to a three-year trial period. This trial period was to give interested parties an opportunity to measure the costs associated with cancer clinical trials.

Proponents of this bill believe the trial period has not resulted in measurable increased costs and that coverage of cancer clinical trials should be made permanent.

Those who would oppose this bill would argue the trial period has measured increased costs that have driven the cost of health insurance higher. They would argue the delayed repeal should stay in place.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill has no fiscal impact.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

If the bill is not enacted, coverage of patient cost incurred during cancer clinical trials will be repealed effective July 4, 2004.

DG/lg