

New York State ASSEMBLY

Sheldon Silver - Speaker

Friday, August 1, 2008

Bill Summary - A03251[Back](#) | [New York State Bill Search](#) | [Assembly Home](#)[See Bill Text](#)**A03251 Summary:**

BILL NO A03251A
 SAME AS No same as
 SPONSOR O'Donnell
 COSPNSR Bing, Powell, Gottfried, Kavanagh, Rosenthal
 MLTSPNSR Glick, Hoyt, Kellner, Lifton, McEneny, Perry, Sweeney
 Amd SS3216, 3221, 4304 & 4305, Ins L

Requires insurers providing family health insurance coverage to offer coverage for the domestic partner of an insured person according to qualification standards to be adopted by the superintendent.

A03251 Actions:

BILL NO A03251A
 01/23/2007 referred to insurance
 03/14/2007 reported
 03/15/2007 advanced to third reading cal.124
 03/26/2007 passed assembly
 03/26/2007 delivered to senate
 03/26/2007 REFERRED TO INSURANCE
 01/09/2008 DIED IN SENATE
 01/09/2008 RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY
 01/09/2008 ordered to third reading cal.281
 01/14/2008 amended on third reading 3251a
 02/27/2008 passed assembly
 02/27/2008 delivered to senate
 02/27/2008 REFERRED TO INSURANCE

A03251 Votes:

BILL: A03251A DATE: 02/27/2008 MOTION:

YEA/NAY: 118/021

Abbate	Y	Cahill	Y	Errigo	NO	Hooper	Y	Magnare	Y	Pheffer	Y	Spano	Y
Alessi	Y	Calhoun	NO	Espail	Y	Hoyt	Y	Maisel	Y	Powell	Y	Stirpe	Y
Alfano	Y	Camara	Y	Farrell	Y	Hyer-Sp	Y	Markey	Y	Pretlow	Y	Sweeney	Y
Amedore	NO	Canestr	Y	Fields	Y	Jacobs	Y	Mayerso	Y	Quinn	NO	Tedisco	NO
Arroyo	Y	Carrozz	Y	Finch	ER	Jaffee	Y	McDonal	NO	Rabbitt	NO	Thiele	Y
Auberti	ER	Christe	Y	Fitzpat	ER	Jeffrie	Y	McDonou	Y	Raia	Y	Titone	Y
Aubry	Y	Clark	Y	Gabrysz	Y	John	Y	McEneny	Y	Ramos	Y	Titus	Y
Bacalle	Y	Cole	NO	Galef	Y	Kavanag	Y	McKevit	Y	Reilich	NO	Tobacco	Y
Ball	Y	Colton	Y	Gantt	ER	Kellner	Y	Miller	Y	Reilly	Y	Towns	Y
Barclay	ER	Conte	Y	Gianari	Y	Kirwan	Y	Millman	Y	Rive J	Y	Townsen	NO
Barra	Y	Cook	Y	Giglio	NO	Kolb	NO	Molinar	ER	Rive N	Y	Walker	Y
Benedet	Y	Crouch	Y	Glick	Y	Koon	Y	Morelle	Y	Rive PM	Y	Weinste	Y
Benjami	Y	Cusick	Y	Gord D	Y	Lafayet	ER	Nolan	Y	Robinso	Y	Weisenb	Y
Bing	Y	Cymbrow	ER	Gord TP	Y	Lancman	Y	Oaks	NO	Rosenth	Y	Weprin	Y
Boylard	Y	DelMont	Y	Gottfri	Y	Latimer	Y	O`Donne	Y	Saladin	Y	Wright	Y
Boyle	Y	Destito	Y	Greene	Y	Lavine	Y	O`Mara	NO	Sayward	Y	Young	Y
Bradley	Y	Diaz LM	ER	Gunther	Y	Lentol	Y	Ortiz	ER	Scarbor	Y	Zebrows	Y
Brennan	Y	Diaz R	Y	Hawley	NO	Lifton	Y	Parment	Y	Schimel	Y	Mr Spkr	Y
Brodsky	Y	Dinowit	Y	Hayes	NO	Lope PD	NO	Paulin	Y	Schimmi	NO		
Brook-K	Y	Duprey	Y	Heastie	Y	Lope VJ	ER	Peoples	Y	Schroed	Y		
Burling	NO	Eddingt	Y	Hevesi	Y	Lupardo	Y	Peralta	Y	Scozzaf	Y		
Butler	NO	Englebr	Y	Hikind	Y	Magee	NO	Perry	Y	Seminer	Y		

A03251 Memo:

BILL NUMBER: A3251A

TITLE OF BILL : An act to amend the insurance law, in relation to health insurance benefits for domestic partners

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL :

This bill would require a health plan to provide health insurance coverage for domestic partners, when such coverage is requested by an employer group or individual purchasing health insurance, but does not impose any mandates on employers.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS :

Sections one and two of the bill amend Insurance Law S3216, which governs individual accident and health insurance policies. Section one of the bill amends paragraph 3 of subsection (a) by revising the definition of family and adding a definition of domestic partner. Section two of the bill requires the superintendent of insurance to promulgate regulations that establish qualification standards for domestic partners under commercial health insurance policies issued to individuals. Such regulations shall limit coverage to one domestic partner and provide coverage for children of domestic partners of the insured. The regulations shall also provide for various forms of proof of domestic partnership as well as notification procedures to the insurer of the termination of a domestic partnership.

Sections 3, 4, and 5 of the bill make similar changes to Insurance law SS 3221, 4304, and 4305 with respect to health coverage policies issued by commercial insurers to groups, and to individual and group coverage

issued by non-profit insurers and HMOs. Section 6 of the bill is the effective date. The amendment to section 4 of the bill is a technical one, reflecting a chapter of the Laws of 2007.

JUSTIFICATION :

Current law and regulations permit insurers, non-profit health plans and HMOs to offer health insurance coverage for domestic partners. Many insurers and health plans, however, refuse to provide domestic partner coverage to individuals and smaller employer groups. This legislation would allow employer groups and individuals to successfully request that their health plan provide benefits to qualified domestic partners. The bill does not impose any mandates on employers. This legislation also includes safeguards to prevent abuse of the new domestic partnership provisions by requiring qualification standards for domestic partners and prohibiting coverage of more than one domestic partner at the same time.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY : A.2224/S.5635 (2005-06), passed Assembly 2005 and 2006; A 11464 (2004). FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

EFFECTIVE DATE :

This act shall take effect immediately.

Contact Webmaster

Page display time = 0.0044 sec