

SUBJECT: Paying health plan benefits for a child to the possessory conservator

COMMITTEE: Insurance — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Smithee, Van de Putte, Averitt, Bonnen, Burnam, Eiland, G.  
Lewis, Olivo, Wise

0 nays

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, Local and Uncontested Calendar, February 26 — 31-0

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND : In a suit involving child custody, the court may appoint one parent as  
managing conservator and the other parent as possessory conservator.

Under the Insurance Code, a company that provides a group accident and sickness insurance policy covering a dependent child of a group member may pay benefits on behalf of the child to another person named as managing conservator for the child. Managing conservators must submit a certified copy of the court order or certain other evidence that they qualify to be paid the benefits.

DIGEST: SB 333 would apply these Insurance Code provisions to possessory conservators as well as managing conservators.

SB 333 would take effect September 1, 1997, and would apply only to an insurance policy that was delivered, issued or renewed on or after January 1, 1998.