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**Health Care Committee**

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**HB 2501**

**Brief Description:** Regulating group health benefit plan coverage of mental health services.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Schual-Berke, Cody and Morrell; by request of Insurance Commissioner.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- All group benefit plans offered by health carriers for groups other than small groups defined in RCW 48.43.005 must phase in mental health parity in 2006, 2008, and 2010.

**Hearing Date:** 1/20/06

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:**

All benefit plans offered by health carriers for groups of fifty or more employees must phase in mental health parity in 2006, 2008, and 2010.

**Summary of Bill:**

All group benefit plans offered by health carriers for groups other than small groups defined in RCW 48.43.005 must phase in mental health parity in 2006, 2008, and 2010.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.