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**NCOIL ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW ORLEANS**

New Orleans, Louisiana, October 13, 2000 – Who has access to your private information? How is this information used? What is the difference between medical and financial privacy? Can functional regulation exist between banks and insurers? How will state and federal government agencies coordinate? How will states compete in an emerging global marketplace? What will the future of insurance regulation be?

These questions and many more will be discussed when leading state legislators, insurance regulators, representatives of insurance and other financial organizations and others meet at the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) 32nd Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, on November 16 through 19, 2000. The meeting will be held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, in the heart of the historic New Orleans French Quarter.

The Meeting will focus on state legislative action needed to address crucial issues stemming from federal mandates outlined in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) of 1999. Topping the agenda are issues of financial and medical privacy and producer licensing. At the Meeting, legislators also plan to vote on proposed NCOIL model laws addressing the recently revised and highly controversial Life Settlements Model Act and the NCOIL Mental Health Parity Model Act.

The NCOIL Executive Committee will vote on a proposed NCOIL Financial Information Privacy Protection Model Act on Friday, November 17. This model was aired at a public hearing at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Chicago, Illinois on September 28, 2000. The NCOIL Model Act addresses financial privacy issues and only touches on medical privacy in that it would allow a consumer to opt-in solely for the intent of sharing health information with third parties for marketing purposes.

Representatives of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and NCOIL leadership will meet to discuss state approaches to financial modernization, globalization, and technological change. At an NCOIL/NAIC dialogue entitled, *Proposed Responses to GLBA,*NAIC representatives will present legislators with the NAIC’s proposed vision of the future of insurance regulation. The session will provide legislators with a heads-up on potential legislation and regulation to come before them in their 2001 legislative sessions.

The meeting program features a presentation entitled *Banks and Insurance: Can Functional Regulation Work?*Itwill ask questions such as: how will state and federal governmental agencies coordinate in the regulation of banks and insurance; who will have oversight and rule making powers; what part states, the NAIC and industry will play; and how functional regulation will affect consumers.

A discussion on medical privacy will assist legislators in their efforts to gather information on medical privacy. A presentation entitled*Medical Privacy, How Far is too Far?*will allow legislators to begin to explore this critical topic. Itwill address issues of medical privacy, including: the need for medical privacy; the difference between medical and financial privacy; the impact of federal HHS rules; and the role of the NAIC and the insurance industry.

Legislators in the Viatical Settlements Subcommittee and Life Insurance Committee will vote on a proposed NCOIL Life Settlements Model Act on November 16. The Model outlines what information must be provided to the owner and includes such things as fraud warnings and a consumer advisory package. The Model also provides clarification on policy rescission. Under the revised language, purchasers and policy owners are allowed to rescind sales contracts and purchase agreements within 15 days of the date of execution.

Legislators in the Health Insurance Committee will vote on an NCOIL Mental Health Parity Model Act on November 17. The Model Act addresses the level of mental health parity benefits provided under large group (50 or more employees) health insurance policies. It provides for a broad-based (rather than a strictly biologically-based) definition of mental illness. The Model Act provides coverage for mental illness that is at least equal to the coverage provided for physical injury or illness, and includes coverage for alcoholism and substance abuse services.

Meeting registration materials and related information are available on the NCOIL Web site at www.ncoil.org.

m:ncoil/2000documents/2002449a.doc