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**For Immediate Release**

## **Two Pieces of Governor Richardson's Health Reform Package Get Committee Approval**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The Senate Public Affairs Committee yesterday approved two of Governor Richardson's legislation to Reform Health Care.

- **Senate Bill 246, Small Group Rating Reduction**, sponsored by Sen. John Ryan requires that the percentage of annual increase in premium rates due to health status for health benefit plans subject to the Small Group Rate and Renewability Act will be reduced over a five-year period from 20 to 10 percent; and redefines "small group" to include self-employed individuals.
- **Senate Bill 278, Electronic Medical Records**, sponsored by Sen. Peter Wirth allows for the creation, maintenance and use of electronic medical records; clarifies individual rights with respect to the disclosure of information contained in electronic medical records; clarifies the protection of privacy of electronic medical records.

SB 246 now goes to the Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee. SB 278 heads to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Governor's package of 10 Health Care Reform bills focus on Electronic Medical Records, Consolidation of Public Coverage Programs, and Insurance Reform to increase access to coverage and quality health care for all New Mexicans.

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