

Bid to stop health insurance gender rating advances

By Bobby Caina Calvin

Legislation outlawing gender rating by health insurers took another step forward Monday when the Assembly voted overwhelmingly to prohibit insurers from using a person's sex as the basis for charging different premiums for similar policies.

Women's advocates had sought to ban gender rating, arguing that the practice is discriminatory and prevents some women from being able to afford individual health insurance policies.

Assembly Bill 119, written by **Assemblyman Dave Jones, D-Sacramento**, was approved along party lines, 51- 29.

The Senate delayed a vote on its version but is expected to take up the matter later this week.