

Life Insurance Briefs

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Calif. outlaws COLI policies

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Employers in California will be barred from taking out life insurance on their rank-and-file employees and making themselves the beneficiaries under a bill signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis.

Supporters of the legislation say employers shouldn't profit from the death of a worker, but opponents say the policies, commonly known as dead peasants' insurance, can be used to help fund health insurance benefits for workers.

The legislation, by Assemblyman Juan Vargas, D-San Diego, takes effect Jan. 1.

Existing policies banned by the bill would become void on the next premium payment date or, at the latest, by 2010. □

Hancock products now in N.Y.

BOSTON — John Hancock Financial Services' enhanced Revolution variable annuities line has been approved for sale in the state of New York. The annuities, called Revolution Value II and Revolution Extra II, include flexible pricing and a feature to combat market loss.

The annuities also offer Hancock's CARESolutions feature, which waives withdrawal charges if the annuity owner or spouse needs long-term care. □

AXA seeks to buy Mony

NEW YORK — AXA Financial Inc., seeking to expand its insurance and annuity business, said it plans to buy The Mony Group Inc. in a \$1.5 billion cash deal.

AXA Financial, which is 58 percent owned by French insurance company AXA S.A., has about \$458 billion in assets. The company said the acquisition will increase the reach of its insurance and annuity distribution by about 25 percent, provide new outlets for its products, and enhance its wholesale distribution platform.

Mony, like AXA Financial based in New York, has about \$55 billion in assets under management and focuses on financial protection and asset accumulation products.

AXA said the deal won't affect current Mony policyholders. Mony's life insurance unit will continue to operate under its own name as an AXA unit. □