



# LOUISIANA SENATE

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## SENATOR DAN MORRISH LEADS EFFORT TO FIGHT INSURANCE FRAUD

### MEASURE TO CRACK DOWN ON INSURANCE FRAUD GAINS GOVERNOR APPROVAL

District 25 State Senator Dan 'Blade' Morrish (R-Jennings), Chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, is leading the effort to crack down on insurance fraud. At his urging, the legislature approved and the Governor signed Senate Bill 765, now ACT 862 of the 2012 Regular Session. This new law, the Sledge Jeansonne Louisiana Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, is an effort to enhance to the state's efforts to fight insurance fraud, which costs insurance companies and their policyholders hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Sen. Morrish says that this measure, which is named in honor of two fallen insurance fraud investigators, allows the attorney general and investigators more tools to better fight fraud and protect consumers.

"Insurance fraud not only impacts insurance companies but it is also extremely detrimental to innocent policy holders," said. Sen. Morrish. "We at the legislature are dedicated to taking a stand against insurance fraud and this measure will help us to do so."

According to the Louisiana Attorney General's office, Louisiana families spend almost \$1,000 a year because of fraud. Property and Casualty insurance fraud in Louisiana amounts to \$500 million a year while healthcare insurance fraud amounts to \$1.5 billion a year.

ACT 862 authorizes the Attorney General's office to pursue civil actions, including monetary penalties, liquidated damages or other remedies against individuals who engage in insurance fraud, misrepresentation, abuse or other illegal practices. All money collected from violators after damages are paid will go into the Insurance Fraud Investigation Fund to assist agencies in insurance fraud investigations. The new law takes effect August 1, 2012.

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