

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1855

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to the financial supervision and solvency oversight of insurance companies.

Brief Description: Enabling accreditation of the insurance commissioner.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored by Representatives Zellinsky, Kessler and R. Meyers; by request of Insurance Commissioner).

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Financial Institutions & Insurance, February 25, 1993,
DPS;
Appropriations, March 6, 1993, DPS(FII);
Passed House, March 12, 1993, 98-0;
Amended by Senate;
Conference Committee Report adopted;
Passed Legislature, April 25, 1993, 98-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 16 members: Representatives Zellinsky, Chair; Scott, Vice Chair; Mielke, Ranking Minority Member; Dyer, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson; Dellwo; Dorn; Grant; R. Johnson; Kessler; Kremen; Lemmon; R. Meyers; Reams; Schmidt; and Tate.

Staff: John Conniff (786-7119).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: The substitute bill by Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 26 members: Representatives Locke, Chair; Valle, Vice Chair; Silver, Ranking Minority Member; Carlson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appelwick; Ballasiotes; Basich; Cooke; Dellwo; Dorn; Dunshee; G. Fisher; Jacobsen; Lemmon; Leonard; Linville;

Morton; Peery; Rust; Sehlin; Sheahan; Stevens; Talcott; Wang; Wineberry; and Wolfe.

Staff: Beth Redfield (786-7130).

Background: The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) coordinates the insurance regulatory activities of the states. The NAIC has established model statutes and regulations for adoption by each state; in particular, the NAIC has created financial regulation standards for supervision of insurance companies. The NAIC will be conducting a review of each state's insurance statutes and regulations to determine whether states meet these financial regulation standards. If Washington meets the standards, the state will be accredited by the NAIC.

After January 1, 1994, states that have received NAIC accreditation will reject the financial solvency examinations of insurance companies conducted by non-accredited states. Insurance companies chartered in non-accredited states may be refused authority to sell insurance in accredited states or may be subject to re-examination by the accredited state.

Summary of Bill: The Washington Insurance Code is amended to conform to the NAIC's recommended financial regulation standards and recommended regulatory statutes. The amendments address insurance holding companies; insurance broker controlled property and casualty insurance companies; reinsurance intermediaries; managing general agents; insurance company examination procedures; insurer capital and surplus requirements; limitations upon individual insurance company exposure to individual risks; valuation of insurance company investments; receivership, liquidation and rehabilitation of insurance companies; insurance company liabilities and reserves; and regulation of risk retention and risk purchasing groups.

Dental benefits not included in the uniform benefits package designed by the Health Services Commission are exempt from the health care reform law.

Fiscal Note: Requested February 17, 1993.

Effective Date of Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: (Financial Institutions & Insurance): These amendments and additions to the insurance code are necessary for the state to obtain accreditation by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Without such accreditation, Washington insurers will be at a competitive

disadvantage to those insurers headquartered in accredited states.

(Appropriations): The bill was developed over a two year period working very closely with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and with input from all interested groups. The purpose of the bill is to enhance the commissioner's ability to regulate insurance companies for solvency. The bill has no general fund state impact.

Testimony Against: (Financial Institutions & Insurance): None.

(Appropriations): None.

Witnesses: (Financial Institutions & Insurance): John Woodall, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (pro); and Dan Wolfe, SAFECO (pro).

(Appropriations): John Woodall, Insurance Commissioner's Office (supports).