

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2817

C 88 L 04

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Regulating insurance investments in limited liability companies formed to develop real property.

Sponsors: By Representatives Hatfield and Newhouse.

House Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance
Senate Committee on Financial Services, Insurance & Housing

Background:

Insurers may invest funds only as specifically authorized in the insurance code. With the exception of real estate and mortgage loans, all investments must be interest bearing or interest accruing or dividend or income paying. An insurer may invest in securities, real property, mortgage loans, bonds, and other investments, subject to certain limitations.

An insurer may own and invest in its home office and branch office buildings in an aggregate amount not exceeding 10 percent of its assets, unless approved by the Insurance Commissioner (Commissioner). An insurer may own real property acquired in satisfaction of a loan, mortgage, lien, judgment or other debt previously owed to the insurer. An insurer may invest, in the aggregate, no more than 3 percent of its assets in the following types of real property: required for corporate offices; received as a gift or devise; acquired in exchange for other real property; acquired through a lawful merger or consolidation with another insurer; or, with approval of the Commissioner, real property purchased to protect or enhance the value of the insurer's other real property.

An insurer may invest, in the aggregate, no more than 10 percent of its assets or 50 percent of its surplus less capital and other liabilities (whichever is less). A mutual insurer may invest, in the aggregate, no more than 10 percent of its assets or 50 percent of its surplus over and above the minimum required surplus amount (whichever is less).

An insurer may not invest more than 1 percent of its assets in any one investment.

A Limited Liability Company (LLC) is a relatively new business structure authorized in Washington in 1994. LLCs provide owners limited personal liability for the LLC's debts and actions. LLCs are formed by one or more individuals or entities through a special written agreement. The agreement details the organization of the LLC, including provisions for management, assignability of interests, and distribution of profits or losses.

Summary:

An insurer may invest in a limited liability company in order to develop its real property so long as the investment does not amount to more than 4 percent of its assets.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 95 0

Senate 43 1

Effective: June 10, 2004