

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5798

C 244 L 24
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Extending certain insurance notice requirements.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Kuderer, Shewmake, Hasegawa and Wellman).

Senate Committee on Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Business

Background: Written Notice Required for the Cancellation or Nonrenewal of an Insurance Policy. An insurance contract establishes conditions in which the insurer may cancel or not renew an insurance policy. Though the reasons for cancellation or nonrenewal are contract dependent, they may be the result of nonpayment, increased risk, excessive claims, or fraud or misrepresentation by the insured. By state law, an insurer must give the insured a certain number of days written notice prior to the effective date of the cancellation or nonrenewal. The amount of written notice an insurer is required to give is dependent on the type of insurance policy and whether it is for nonpayment of a premium.

The following lists insurance policies and the amount of written notice required to be given by the insurer before the effective date of the nonrenewal or cancellation as prescribed under Washington State law:

- property and casualty insurance policies require 45 days' notice;
- auto insurance policies require 20 days' notice;
- fire insurance policies for abandoned and at-risk buildings requires either 5 days' or 20 days' notice, dependent on the situation; and
- medical malpractice insurance policies require 90 days' notice.

If there is nonpayment of a premium for a health, property and casualty or medical malpractice insurance policy the amount of written notice required is 10 days before the effective date of cancellation. If there is nonpayment of a premium for an auto insurance policy, or it is within the first 30 days of the contract, the amount of written notice required for cancellation by the insurer is also at least 10 days.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Written notice may be delivered by mail, electronic facsimile, or personal delivery.

Summary: The amount of time an insurer must give written notice for a cancellation or nonrenewal of a property and casualty insurance policy is extended from 45 days' to 60 days' notice before the effective date.

Written notice requirements will apply to all affected policies issued on or after July 1, 2025.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0	
House	96	0	(House amended)
Senate	49	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: July 1, 2025