S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

1312

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 9, 2015

Introduced by Sen. SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to encouraging modernization of mutual and cooperative insurance companies' information systems technology

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4110 of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 527 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

(a) No domestic mutual property/casualty insurance company licensed to write a kind of insurance specified in paragraph seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen or seventeen of subsection (a) of section one thousand one hundred thirteen of this chapter shall expend in any one calendar year for management expenses a greater amount than thirty percent of the sum of its net premium income and seventy-five percent of its investment income for such year; provided that any insurer whose principal line of business is medical malpractice liability insurance or any insurer who is the subject of a proceeding pursuant to article seventy-four of this chapter shall not expend in any one calendar year for management expenses, a greater amount than thirty percent of its net premium income for such year. Management expenses shall be held to include all expenses of the company except expenses incurred in the investigation, adjustment and settlement of claims, taxes, fees and expenses of examination, and taxes, repairs and expenses on real estate. In applying the provisions of this section the net premium income of, and expenses of, boiler and machinery insurance or elevator insurance shall not be included. In the event expenses incurred in making a new system upgrade result in this subsection's management expenses limit being exceeded, then the insurer shall inform the superintendent sixty days in advance of the expense limit being

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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exceeded. Subject to approval by the superintendent, the limit shall be temporarily raised to the amount necessary to encompass the aforestated new system upgrade, provided that in no event shall the limit be raised more than five percentage points and shall not be in effect for more than [six] THREE years, AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT AN INSURER MAY SUBMIT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PRIOR APPROVAL, A WRITTEN REQUEST TO TEMPORARILY RAISE THE LIMIT FOR UP TO AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS, FOR A TOTAL OF NO MORE THAN SIX YEARS. AN INSURER SHALL SUBMIT SUCH WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE SUPERINTENDENT AT LEAST SIXTY DAYS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE INITIAL PERIOD DURING WHICH THE LIMIT WAS RAISED. The insurer shall not increase premiums solely as a result of the management expenses cap limit being exceeded. For purposes of this subsection, a new system upgrade is defined as the acquisition of electronic data processing apparatus and related equipment constituting a data processing, record keeping or accounting system and operating and non-operating software.

S 2. Subsection (a) of section 6613 of the insurance law, as amended by chapter 527 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The expenses of management of any co-operative property/casualty insurance company shall not exceed in any one calendar year forty-two and one-half percent of its net premiums written for such year. The term "net premiums written" means direct premiums written plus reinsurance assumed less return premiums and reinsurance ceded. In the event expenses incurred in making a new system upgrade result in this subsection's management expenses limit being exceeded, then the insurer shall inform the superintendent sixty days in advance of the expense limit being exceeded. Subject to approval by the superintendent, the limit shall be temporarily raised to the amount necessary to encompass the aforestated new system upgrade, provided that in no event shall the limit be raised more than five percentage points and shall not be in effect for more than [six] THREE years, AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT AN INSURER MAY SUBMIT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PRIOR APPROVAL, A WRITTEN REQUEST TO TEMPORARILY RAISE THE LIMIT FOR UP TO AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS, FOR A TOTAL OF NO MORE THAN SIX YEARS. AN INSURER SHALL SUBMIT SUCH WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE SUPERINTENDENT AT LEAST SIXTY DAYS BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE INITIAL PERIOD DURING WHICH THE LIMIT WAS RAISED. The insurer shall not increase premiums solely as a result of the management expenses cap limit being exceeded. For purposes of this subsection, a new system upgrade is defined as the acquisition of electronic data processing apparatus and related equipment constituting a data processing, record keeping or accounting system and operating and non-operating software.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.