



SPONSOR: Rep. Bush & Sen. Mantzavinos
Reps. Baumbach, Briggs King; Sens. Ennis, Walsh,
Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 229

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATED TO INTERSTATE INSURANCE PRODUCT REGULATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underlining as follows:

Chapter 30. Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact.

§ 3001. Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact.

The State hereby enters into the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact ("Compact") as set forth in this chapter. The text of the Compact is as set forth in this chapter.

§ 3002. Purpose and intent.

The purposes of this Compact are, through means of joint and cooperative action among the compacting states, all of the following:

(1) To promote and protect the interest of consumers of individual and group annuity, life insurance, disability income, and long-term care insurance products.

(2) To develop uniform standards for insurance products covered under the Compact.

(3) To establish a central clearinghouse to receive and provide prompt review of insurance products covered under the Compact and, in certain cases, advertisements related thereto, submitted by insurers authorized to do business in one or more compacting states.

(4) To give appropriate regulatory approval to those product filings and advertisements satisfying the applicable uniform standard.

(5) To improve coordination of regulatory resources and expertise between state insurance departments regarding the setting of uniform standards and review of insurance products covered under the Compact.

(6) To create the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission.

(7) To perform these and such other related functions as may be consistent with the state regulation of the business of insurance.

23 § 3003. Definitions.

24 For purposes of this Compact, the following terms shall have these meanings:

25 (1) “Advertisement” means any material designed to create public interest in a Product, or induce the public to
26 purchase, increase, modify, reinstate, borrow on, surrender, replace, or retain a policy, as more specifically defined in
27 the Rules and Operating Procedures of the Commission.

28 (2) “Bylaws” mean those bylaws established by the Commission for its governance, or for directing or
29 controlling the Commission’s actions or conduct.

30 (3) “Compacting state” means any state which has enacted this Compact legislation and which has not
31 withdrawn pursuant to § 3015(a) of this Compact, or been terminated pursuant to § 3015(b) of this Compact.

32 (4) “Commission” means the “Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission” established by this
33 Compact.

34 (5) “Commissioner” means the chief insurance regulatory official of a State, including commissioner,
35 superintendent, director, or administrator.

36 (6) “Domiciliary state” means the state in which an insurer is incorporated or organized or, in the case of an
37 alien insurer, its state of entry.

38 (7) “Insurer” means any entity licensed by a state to issue contracts of insurance for any of the lines of
39 insurance covered by this Act.

40 (8) “Member” means the person chosen by a compacting state as its representative to the Commission, or his
41 or her designee.

42 (9) “NAIC” means the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

43 (10) “Non-compacting state” means any state which is not at the time a compacting state.

44 (11) “Operating procedures” means procedures promulgated by the Commission implementing a rule, uniform
45 standard or a provision of this Compact.

46 (12) “Product” means the form of a policy or contract, including any application, endorsement, or related form
47 which is attached to and made a part of the policy or contract, and any evidence of coverage or certificate, for an
48 individual or group annuity, life insurance, disability income, or long-term care insurance product that an insurer is
49 authorized to issue.

50 (13) “Rule” means a statement of general or particular applicability and future effect promulgated by the
51 Commission, including a uniform standard developed pursuant to § 3008 of this Compact, designed to implement,

interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of the Commission, which shall have the force and effect of law in the compacting states.

(14) "State" means any state, district, or territory of the United States of America.

(15) "Third-party filer" means an entity that submits a product filing to the Commission on behalf of an insurer.

(16) "Uniform standard" means a standard adopted by the Commission for a product line, pursuant to § 3008 of this Compact, and shall include all of the product requirements in aggregate; provided, that each uniform standard shall be construed, whether express or implied, to prohibit the use of any inconsistent, misleading, or ambiguous provision in a product, and the form of the product made available to the public shall not be unfair, inequitable, or against public policy as determined by the Commission.

§ 3004. Establishment of the Commission and venue.

(a) The compacting states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the "Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission." Pursuant to § 3005 of this Compact, the Commission will have the power to develop uniform standards for product lines, receive and provide prompt review of products filed therewith, and give approval to those product filings satisfying applicable uniform standards; provided, it is not intended for the Commission to be the exclusive entity for receipt and review of insurance product filings. Nothing herein shall prohibit any insurer from filing its product in any state wherein the insurer is licensed to conduct the business of insurance, and any such filing shall be subject to the laws of the state where filed.

(b) The Commission is a body corporate and politic, and an instrumentality of the compacting states.

(c) The Commission is solely responsible for its liabilities except as otherwise specifically provided in this Compact.

(d) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the Commission is located.

§ 3005. Powers of the Commission.

The Commission shall have all of the following powers:

(1) To promulgate rules, pursuant to § 3008 of this Compact, which shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in the compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided in this Compact.

(2) To exercise its rule-making authority and establish reasonable uniform standards for products covered under the Compact, and advertisements related thereto, which shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in the compacting states, but only for those products filed with the Commission; provided, that a compacting

state shall have the right to opt out of such uniform standard pursuant to § 3008 of this Compact, to the extent and in the manner provided in this Compact and, provided further, that any uniform standard established by the Commission for long-term care insurance products may provide the same or greater protections for consumers as, but shall not provide less than, those protections set forth in the NAIC's Long-Term Care Insurance Model Act and Long-Term Care Insurance Model Regulation, respectively, adopted in 2001. The Commission shall consider whether any subsequent amendments to the NAIC's Long-Term Care Insurance Model Act or Long-Term Care Insurance Model Regulation adopted by the NAIC require amending of the uniform standards established by the Commission for long-term care products.

(3) To receive and review in an expeditious manner products filed with the Commission, and rate filings for disability income and long-term care insurance products, and give approval of those products and rate filings that satisfy the applicable uniform standard, where such approval shall have the force and effect of law and be binding on the compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided in the Compact.

(4) To receive and review in an expeditious manner advertisements related to long-term care insurance products for which uniform standards have been adopted by the Commission, and give approval to all advertisements that satisfy the applicable uniform standard. For any product covered under this Compact, other than long-term care insurance products, the Commission shall have the authority to require an insurer to submit all or any part of its advertisements with respect to that product for review or approval prior to use, if the Commission determines that the nature of the product is such that an advertisement of the product could have the capacity or tendency to mislead the public. The actions of the Commission as provided in this section shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in the compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided in the Compact.

(5) To exercise its rule-making authority and designate products and advertisements that may be subject to a self-certification process without the need for prior approval by the Commission.

(6) To promulgate operating procedures, pursuant to § 3008 of this Compact, which shall be binding in the compacting states to the extent and in the manner provided in this Compact.

(7) To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in its name as the Commission; provided that the standing of any state insurance department to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected.

(8) To issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence.

(9) To establish and maintain offices.

(10) To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

(11) To borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including employees of a compacting state.

112 (12) To hire employees, professionals, or specialists, and elect or appoint officers, and to fix their
113 compensation, define their duties, and give them appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and
114 determine their qualifications, and to establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to, among
115 other things, conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, and qualifications of personnel.

116 (13) To accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and
117 services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the Commission shall strive to avoid
118 any appearance of impropriety.

119 (14) To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use,
120 any property, real, personal, or mixed; provided that at all times the Commission shall strive to avoid any appearance
121 of impropriety.

122 (15) To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real,
123 personal, or mixed.

124 (16) To remit filing fees to compacting states as may be set forth in the bylaws, rules, or operating procedures.

125 (17) To enforce compliance by compacting states with rules, uniform standards, operating procedures and
126 bylaws.

127 (18) To provide for dispute resolution among compacting states.

128 (19) To advise compacting states on issues relating to insurers domiciled or doing business in non-compacting
129 jurisdictions, consistent with the purposes of this Compact.

130 (20) To provide advice and training to those personnel in state insurance departments responsible for product
131 review, and to be a resource for state insurance departments.

132 (21) To establish a budget and make expenditures.

133 (22) To borrow money.

134 (23) To appoint committees, including advisory committees comprising members, state insurance regulators,
135 state legislators or their representatives, insurance industry and consumer representatives, and such other interested
136 persons as may be designated in the bylaws.

137 (24) To provide and receive information from, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

138 (25) To adopt and use a corporate seal.

139 (26) To perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this
140 Compact consistent with the state regulation of the business of insurance.

141 § 3006. Organization of the Commission.

142 (a) Membership, voting and bylaws. – (1) Each compacting state shall have and be limited to 1 member. Each
143 member shall be qualified to serve in that capacity pursuant to applicable law of the compacting state. Any member may be
144 removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which he or she shall be appointed. Any
145 vacancy occurring in the Commission shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the compacting state wherein the
146 vacancy exists. Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the manner in which a compacting state determines the election
147 or appointment and qualification of its own Commissioner.

148 (2) Each member shall be entitled to 1 vote and shall have an opportunity to participate in the governance of
149 the Commission in accordance with the bylaws. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, no action of the
150 Commission with respect to the promulgation of a uniform standard shall be effective unless 2/3 of the members vote
151 in favor thereof.

152 (3) The Commission shall, by a majority of the members, prescribe bylaws to govern its conduct as may be
153 necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes, and exercise the powers, of the Compact, including all of the
154 following:

155 a. Establishing the fiscal year of the Compact.

156 b. Providing reasonable procedures for appointing and electing members, as well as holding meetings, of the
157 management committee.

158 c. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for all of the following:

159 1. The establishment and meetings of other committees.

160 2. The governance of any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the
161 Commission.

162 d. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the Commission that consist of a
163 majority of Commission members, ensuring reasonable advance notice of each such meeting and providing for the right of
164 citizens to attend each such meeting with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's interest, the privacy of
165 individuals, and insurers' proprietary information, including trade secrets. The Commission may meet in camera only after
166 a majority of the entire membership votes en toto or in part. As soon as practicable, the Commission must make public a
167 copy of the vote to close the meeting, revealing the vote of each member with no proxy votes allowed, and the votes taken
168 during such meeting.

169 e. Establishing the titles, duties, and authority and reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of the
170 Commission.

171 f. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and programs of
172 the Commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws of any compacting state, the bylaws shall
173 exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of the Commission.

174 g. Promulgating a code of ethics to address permissible and prohibited activities of commission members and
175 employees.

176 h. Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of the Commission and the equitable disposition of any
177 surplus funds that may exist after the termination of the Compact after the payment or reserving of all of its debts and
178 obligations.

179 (4) The Commission shall publish its bylaws in a convenient form and file a copy thereof and a copy of any
180 amendment thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the compacting states.

181 (b) Management Committee, Officers and Personnel. – (1) A management committee comprising no more than 14
182 members shall be established as follows:

183 a. 1 member from each of the 6 compacting states with the largest premium volume for individual and group
184 annuities, life, disability income, and long-term care insurance products, determined from the records of the NAIC for the
185 prior year;

186 b. 4 members from those compacting states with at least 2% of the market based on the premium volume described
187 in paragraph (b)(1)A. of this section, other than the 6 compacting states with the largest premium volume, selected on a
188 rotating basis as provided in the bylaws; and

189 c. 4 members from those compacting states with less than 2% of the market, based on the premium volume
190 described in paragraph (b)(1)A. of this section, with 1 selected from each of the 4 zone regions of the NAIC as provided in
191 the bylaws.

192 (2) The management committee shall have such authority and duties as may be set forth in the bylaws,
193 including all of the following:

194 a. Managing the affairs of the Commission in a manner consistent with the bylaws and purposes of the
195 Commission.

196 b. Establishing and overseeing an organizational structure within, and appropriate procedures for, the Commission
197 to provide for the creation of uniform standards and other rules, receipt and review of product filings, administrative and
198 technical support functions, review of decisions regarding the disapproval of a product filing, and the review of elections
199 made by a compacting state to opt out of a uniform standard; provided that a uniform standard shall not be submitted to the
200 compacting states for adoption unless approved by 2/3 of the members of the management committee.

201 c. Overseeing the offices of the Commission.

202 d. Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications and activities with other state, federal, and local
203 government organizations in order to advance the goals of the Commission.

204 (3) The Commission shall elect annually officers from the management committee, with each having such
205 authority and duties, as may be specified in the bylaws.

206 (4) The management committee may, subject to the approval of the Commission, appoint or retain an
207 executive director for such period, upon such terms and conditions and for such compensation as the Commission may
208 deem appropriate. The executive director shall serve as secretary to the Commission, but shall not be a member of the
209 Commission. The executive director shall hire and supervise such other staff as may be authorized by the Commission.

210 (c) Legislative and Advisory Committees. – (1) A legislative committee comprising state legislators or their
211 designees shall be established to monitor the operations of, and make recommendations to, the Commission, including the
212 management committee; provided that the manner of selection and term of any legislative committee member shall be as
213 set forth in the bylaws. Prior to the adoption by the Commission of any uniform standard, revision to the bylaws, annual
214 budget, or other significant matter as may be provided in the bylaws, the management committee shall consult with and
215 report to the legislative committee.

216 (2) The Commission shall establish 2 advisory committees, one of which shall comprise consumer
217 representatives independent of the insurance industry, and the other comprising insurance industry representatives.

218 (3) The Commission may establish additional advisory committees as its bylaws may provide for the carrying
219 out of its functions.

220 (d) Corporate Records of the Commission. – The Commission shall maintain its corporate books and records in
221 accordance with the bylaws.

222 (e) Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification. – (1) The members, officers, executive director, employees,
223 and representatives of the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official
224 capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of
225 any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable
226 basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing
227 in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any sch person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability
228 caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of that person.

229 (2) The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the
230 Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission

that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel; provided, further, that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful and wanton misconduct.

(3) The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee or representative of the Commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities; provided that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did not result from the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of that person.

§ 3007. Meetings and acts of the Commission.

(a) The Commission shall meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provision of this Compact and the bylaws.

(b) Each member of the Commission shall have the right and power to cast a vote to which that compacting state is entitled and to participate in the business and affairs of the Commission. A member shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for members' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

(c) The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

§ 3008. Rules and operating procedures: rulemaking functions of the Commission and opting out of uniform standards.

(a) Rulemaking authority. – The Commission shall promulgate reasonable rules, including uniform standards, and operating procedures in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of this Compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the Commission exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes of this Act, or the powers granted hereunder, then such an action by the Commission shall be invalid and have no force and effect.

(b) Rulemaking procedure. – Rules and operating procedures shall be made pursuant to a rulemaking process that conforms to the Model State Administrative Procedure Act of 1981 as amended, as may be appropriate to the operations of the Commission. Before the Commission adopts a uniform standard, the Commission shall give written notice to the

relevant state legislative committee(s) in each compacting state responsible for insurance issues of its intention to adopt the uniform standard. The Commission in adopting a uniform standard shall consider fully all submitted materials and issue a concise explanation of its decision.

(c) Effective date and opt out of a uniform standard. – A uniform standard shall become effective 90 days after its promulgation by the Commission or such later date as the Commission may determine; provided, however, that a compacting state may opt out of a uniform standard as provided in this section. “Opt out” shall be defined as any action by a compacting state to decline to adopt or participate in a promulgated uniform standard. All other rules and operating procedures, and amendments thereto, shall become effective as of the date specified in each rule, operating procedure or amendment.

(d) Opt out procedure. – (1) A compacting state may opt out of a uniform standard, either by legislation or regulation duly promulgated by the Insurance Department under the compacting state’s Administrative Procedure Act. If a compacting state elects to opt out of a uniform standard by regulation, it must give written notice to the Commission no later than 10 business days after the uniform standard is promulgated, or at the time the state becomes a compacting state, and find that the uniform standard does not provide reasonable protections to the citizens of the state, given the conditions in the state. The Commissioner shall make specific findings of fact and conclusions of law, based on a preponderance of the evidence, detailing the conditions in the state which warrant a departure from the uniform standard and determining that the uniform standard would not reasonably protect the citizens of the state. The Commissioner must consider and balance the following factors and find that the conditions in the state and needs of the citizens of the state outweigh: (i) the intent of the legislature to participate in, and the benefits of, an interstate agreement to establish national uniform consumer protections for the products subject to this Act; and (ii) the presumption that a uniform standard adopted by the Commission provides reasonable protections to consumers of the relevant product.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (d)(1) of this section, a compacting state may, at the time of its enactment of this Compact, prospectively opt out of all uniform standards involving long-term care insurance products by expressly providing for such opt out in the enacted Compact, and such an opt out shall not be treated as a material variance in the offer or acceptance of any state to participate in this Compact. Such an opt out shall be effective at the time of enactment of this Compact by the compacting state and shall apply to all existing uniform standards involving long-term care insurance products and those subsequently promulgated. In accordance with this paragraph, the State of Delaware opts out of all existing and prospective uniform standards involving long-term care insurance products in order to preserve Delaware’s statutory requirements governing these insurance products.

290 (e) Effect of opt out. – If a compacting state elects to opt out of a uniform standard, the uniform standard shall
291 remain applicable in the compacting state electing to opt out until such time the opt out legislation is enacted into law or the
292 regulation opting out becomes effective. Once the opt out of a uniform standard by a compacting state becomes effective as
293 provided under the laws of that state, the uniform standard shall have no further force and effect in that state unless and
294 until the legislation or regulation implementing the opt out is repealed or otherwise becomes ineffective under the laws of
295 the state. If a compacting state opts out of a uniform standard after the uniform standard has been made effective in that
296 state, the opt out shall have the same prospective effect as provided under § 3015 of this Compact for withdrawals.

297 (f) Stay of uniform standard. – If a compacting state has formally initiated the process of opting out of a uniform
298 standard by regulation, and while the regulatory opt out is pending, the compacting state may petition the Commission, at
299 least 15 days before the effective date of the uniform standard, to stay the effectiveness of the uniform standard in that state.
300 The Commission may grant a stay if it determines the regulatory opt out is being pursued in a reasonable manner and there
301 is a likelihood of success. If a stay is granted or extended by the Commission, the stay or extension thereof may postpone
302 the effective date by up to 90 days, unless affirmatively extended by the Commission; provided, a stay may not be
303 permitted to remain in effect for more than 1 year unless the compacting state can show extraordinary circumstances which
304 warrant a continuance of the stay, including the existence of a legal challenge which prevents the compacting state from
305 opting out. A stay may be terminated by the Commission upon notice that the rulemaking process has been terminated.

306 (g) Not later than 30 days after a rule or operating procedure is promulgated, any person may file a petition for
307 judicial review of the rule or operating procedure; provided, that the filing of such a petition shall not stay or otherwise
308 prevent the rule or operating procedure from becoming effective unless the court finds that the petitioner has a substantial
309 likelihood of success. The court shall give deference to the actions of the Commission consistent with applicable law and
310 shall not find the rule or operating procedure to be unlawful if the rule or operating procedure represents a reasonable
311 exercise of the Commission's authority.

312 § 3009. Commission records and enforcement.

313 (a) The Commission shall promulgate rules establishing conditions and procedures for public inspection and
314 copying of its information and official records, except such information and records involving the privacy of individuals'
315 and insurers' trade secrets. The Commission may promulgate additional rules under which it may make available to federal
316 and state agencies, including law enforcement agencies, records and information otherwise exempt from disclosure, and
317 may enter into agreements with such agencies to receive or exchange information or records subject to nondisclosure and
318 confidentiality provisions.

319 (b) Except as to privileged records, data and information, the laws of any compacting state pertaining to
320 confidentiality or nondisclosure shall not relieve any compacting state's commissioner of the duty to disclose any relevant
321 records, data or information to the Commission; provided, that disclosure to the Commission shall not be deemed to waive
322 or otherwise affect any confidentiality requirement; and further provided, that, except as otherwise expressly provided in
323 this Act, the Commission shall not be subject to the compacting state's laws pertaining to confidentiality and nondisclosure
324 with respect to records, data and information in its possession. Confidential information of the Commission shall remain
325 confidential after such information is provided to any commissioner.

326 (c) The Commission shall monitor compacting states for compliance with duly adopted bylaws, rules, including
327 uniform standards, and operating procedures. The Commission shall notify any non-complying compacting state in writing
328 of its noncompliance with Commission bylaws, rules or operating procedures. If a non-complying compacting state fails to
329 remedy its noncompliance within the time specified in the notice of noncompliance, the compacting state shall be deemed
330 to be in default as set forth in § 3015 of this Compact.

331 (d) The commissioner in any state in which an insurer is authorized to do business, or is conducting the business of
332 insurance, shall continue to exercise his or her authority to oversee the market regulation of the activities of the insurer in
333 accordance with the provision of the state's law. The commissioner's enforcement of compliance with the Compact is
334 governed by all of the following provisions:

335 (1) With respect to the commissioner's market regulation of a product or advertisement that is approved or
336 certified to the Commission, the content of the product or advertisement shall not constitute a violation of the
337 provisions, standards, or requirements of the Compact except upon a final order of the Commission, issued at the
338 request of a commissioner after prior notice to the insurer and an opportunity for hearing before the Commission.

339 (2) Before a commissioner may bring an action for violation of any provision, standard, or requirement of the
340 Compact relating to the content of an advertisement not approved or certified to the Commission, the Commission, or
341 an authorized Commission officer or employee, must authorize the action. However, authorization pursuant to this
342 paragraph does not require notice to the insurer, opportunity for hearing or disclosure of requests for authorization or
343 records of the Commission's action on such requests.

344 § 3010. Dispute resolution.

345 The Commission shall attempt, upon the request of a member, to resolve any disputes or other issues that are
346 subject to this Compact and which may arise between two or more compacting states, or between compacting states and
347 non-compacting states, and the Commission shall promulgate an operating procedure providing for resolution of such
348 disputes.

349 § 3011. Product filing and approval.

350 (a) Insurers and third-party filers seeking to have a product approved by the Commission shall file the product
351 with, and pay applicable filing fees to, the Commission. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict or otherwise
352 prevent an insurer from filing its product with the insurance department in any state wherein the insurer is licensed to
353 conduct the business of insurance, and such filing shall be subject to the laws of the states where filed.

354 (b) The Commission shall establish appropriate filing and review processes and procedures pursuant to
355 Commission rules and operating procedures. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, the Commission shall
356 promulgate rules to establish conditions and procedures under which the Commission will provide public access to product
357 filing information. In establishing such rules, the Commission shall consider the interests of the public in having access to
358 such information, as well as protection of personal medical and financial information and trade secrets, that may be
359 contained in a product filing or supporting information.

360 (c) Any product approved by the Commission may be sold or otherwise issued in those compacting states for
361 which the insurer is legally authorized to do business.

362 § 3012. Review of Commission decisions regarding filings.

363 (a) Not later than 30 days after the Commission has given notice of a disapproved product or advertisement filed
364 with the Commission, the insurer or third-party filer whose filing was disapproved may appeal the determination to a
365 review panel appointed by the Commission. The Commission shall promulgate rules to establish procedures for appointing
366 such review panels and provide for notice and hearing. An allegation that the Commission, in disapproving a product or
367 advertisement filed with the Commission, acted arbitrarily, capriciously, or in a manner that is an abuse of discretion or
368 otherwise not in accordance with the law, is subject to judicial review in accordance with §3004(d) of this Compact.

369 (b) The Commission shall have authority to monitor, review and reconsider products and advertisement
370 subsequent to their filing or approval upon a finding that the product does not meet the relevant uniform standard. Where
371 appropriate, the Commission may withdraw or modify its approval after proper notice and hearing, subject to the appeal
372 process in paragraph (a) of this section.

373 § 3013. Finance.

374 (a) The Commission shall pay or provide for the payment of the reasonable expenses of its establishment and
375 organization. To fund the cost of its initial operations, the Commission may accept contributions and other forms of funding
376 from the NAIC, compacting states and other sources. Contributions and other forms of funding from other sources shall be
377 of such a nature that the independence of the Commission concerning the performance of its duties shall not be
378 compromised.

379 (b) The Commission shall collect a filing fee from each insurer and third-party filer filing a product with the
380 Commission to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff in a total amount sufficient to
381 cover the Commission's annual budget.

382 (c) The Commission's budget for a fiscal year shall not be approved until it has been subject to notice and
383 comment as set forth in § 3008 of this Compact.

384 (d) The Commission shall be exempt from all taxation in and by the compacting states.

385 (e) The Commission shall not pledge the credit of any compacting state, except by and with the appropriate legal
386 authority of that compacting state.

387 (f) The Commission shall keep complete and accurate accounts of all its internal receipts, including grants and
388 donations, and disbursements of all funds under its control. The internal financial accounts of the Commission shall be
389 subject to the accounting procedures established under its bylaws. The financial accounts and reports including the system
390 of internal controls and procedures of the Commission shall be audited annually by an independent certified public
391 accountant. Upon the determination of the Commission, but no less frequently than every 3 years, the review of the
392 independent auditor shall include a management and performance audit of the Commission. The Commission shall make an
393 annual report to the Governor and legislature of the compacting states, which shall include a report of the independent
394 audit. The Commission's internal accounts shall not be confidential and such materials may be shared with the
395 commissioner of any compacting state upon request; provided, however, that any work papers related to any internal or
396 independent audit and any information regarding the privacy of individuals' and insurers' proprietary information,
397 including trade secrets, shall remain confidential.

398 (g) No compacting state shall have any claim to or ownership of any property held by or vested in the Commission
399 or to any Commission funds held pursuant to the provisions of this Compact.

400 § 3014. Compacting states, effective date and amendment.

401 (a) Any state is eligible to become a compacting state.

402 (b) The Compact shall become effective and binding upon legislative enactment of the Compact into law by two
403 compacting states; provided, the Commission shall become effective for purposes of adopting uniform standards for,
404 reviewing, and giving approval or disapproval of, products filed with the Commission that satisfy applicable uniform
405 standards only after 26 states are compacting states or, alternatively, by states representing greater than 40% of the
406 premium volume for life insurance, annuity, disability income and long-term care insurance products, based on records of
407 the NAIC for the prior year. Thereafter, it shall become effective and binding as to any other compacting state upon
408 enactment of the Compact into law by that state.

409 (c) Amendments to the Compact may be proposed by the Commission for enactment by the compacting states. No
410 amendment shall become effective and binding upon the Commission and the compacting states unless and until all
411 compacting states enact the amendment into law.

412 § 3015. Withdrawal, default and termination.

413 (a) Withdrawal. – (1) Once effective, the Compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each and every
414 compacting state; provided, that a compacting state may withdraw from the Compact by enacting a statute specifically
415 repealing the statute which enacted the Compact into law.

416 (2) The effective date of withdrawal is the effective date of the repealing statute; however, the withdrawal
417 shall not apply to any product filings approved or self-certified, or any advertisement of such products, on the date the
418 repealing statute becomes effective, except by mutual agreement of the Commission and the withdrawing state unless
419 the approval is rescinded by the withdrawing state as provided in Paragraph (5) of this subsection.

420 (3) The commissioner of the withdrawing state shall immediately notify the management committee in writing
421 upon the introduction of legislation repealing this Compact in the withdrawing state.

422 (4) The Commission shall notify the other compacting states of the introduction of such legislation within 10
423 days after its receipt of notice thereof.

424 (5) The withdrawing state is responsible for all obligations, duties and liabilities incurred through the effective
425 date of withdrawal, including any obligations, the performance of which extend beyond the effective date of
426 withdrawal, except to the extent those obligations may have been released or relinquished by mutual agreement of the
427 Commission and the withdrawing state. The Commission's approval of products and advertisements prior to the
428 effective date of withdrawal shall continue to be effective and be given full force and effect in the withdrawing state,
429 unless formally rescinded by the withdrawing state in the same manner as provided by the laws of the withdrawing
430 state for the prospective disapproval of products or advertisements previously approved under state law.

431 (6) Reinstatement following withdrawal of any compacting state shall occur upon the effective date of the
432 withdrawing state reenacting the Compact.

433 (b) Default. – (1) If the Commission determines that any compacting state has at any time defaulted in the
434 performance of any of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact, the bylaws or duly promulgated rules or
435 operating procedures, then, after notice and hearing as set forth in the bylaws, all rights, privileges and benefits conferred
436 by this Compact on the defaulting state shall be suspended from the effective date of default as fixed by the Commission.
437 The grounds for default include, but are not limited to, failure of a compacting state to perform its obligations or
438 responsibilities, and any other grounds designated in Commission rules. The Commission shall immediately notify the

439 defaulting state in writing of the defaulting state's suspension pending a cure of the default. The Commission shall stipulate
440 the conditions and the time period within which the defaulting state must cure its default. If the defaulting state fails to cure
441 the default within the time period specified by the Commission, the defaulting state shall be terminated from the Compact
442 and all rights, privileges and benefits conferred by this Compact shall be terminated from the effective date of termination.

443 (2) Product approvals by the Commission or product self-certifications, or any advertisement in connection
444 with such product, that are in force on the effective date of termination shall remain in force in the defaulting state in
445 the same manner as if the defaulting state had withdrawn voluntarily pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

446 (3) Reinstatement following termination of any compacting state requires a reenactment of the Compact.

447 (c) Dissolution of Compact. – (1) The Compact dissolves effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of
448 the compacting state which reduces membership in the Compact to one compacting state.

449 (2) Upon dissolution of this Compact, the Compact becomes null and void and shall be of no further force or
450 effect, and the business and affairs of the Commission shall be wound up and any surplus funds shall be distributed in
451 accordance with the bylaws.

452 § 3016. Severability and construction.

453 (a) The provisions of this Compact shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision is deemed
454 unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the Compact shall be enforceable.

455 (b) The provisions of this Compact shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes.

456 § 3017. Binding effect of Compact and other laws.

457 (a) Other laws. – (1) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a compacting state, except as
458 provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

459 (2) For any product approved or certified to the Commission, the rules, uniform standards and any other
460 requirements of the Commission shall constitute the exclusive provisions applicable to the content, approval and
461 certification of such products. For an advertisement that is subject to the Commission's authority, any rule, uniform
462 standard or other requirement of the Commission which governs the content of the advertisement shall constitute the
463 exclusive provision that a commissioner may apply to the content of the advertisement. Notwithstanding the foregoing,
464 no action taken by the Commission shall abrogate or restrict any of the following:

465 a. The access of any person to state courts.

466 b. Remedies available under state law related to breach of contract, tort, or other laws not specifically
467 directed to the content of the product.

468 c. State law relating to the construction of insurance contracts.

d. The authority of the attorney general of the state, including maintaining any actions or proceedings, as authorized by law.

(3) All insurance products filed with individual states shall be subject to the laws of those states.

(b) Binding effect of this Compact. – (1) All lawful actions of the Commission, including all rules and operating procedures promulgated by the Commission, are binding upon the compacting states.

(2) All agreements between the Commission and the compacting states are binding in accordance with their terms.

(3) Upon the request of a party to a conflict over the meaning or interpretation of Commission actions, and upon a majority vote of the compacting states, the Commission may issue advisory opinions regarding the meaning or interpretation in dispute.

(4) In the event any provision of this Compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any compacting state, the obligations, duties, powers, or jurisdiction sought to be conferred by that provision upon the Commission shall be ineffective as to that compacting state, and those obligations, duties, powers, or jurisdiction shall remain in the compacting state and shall be exercised by the agency thereof to which those obligations, duties, powers or jurisdiction are delegated by law in effect at the time this Compact becomes effective.

§ 3018. Appointment of state representative.

The Insurance Commissioner of the State of Delaware is hereby designated to serve as the representative of this State to the Commission.

SYNOPSIS

This Act authorizes the State of Delaware to execute the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact to protect the interest of consumers of individual and group annuity, life insurance, and disability income insurance products; to develop uniform standards for insurance products covered by the Compact; to establish a central clearinghouse to receive and provide prompt review of insurance products covered under the Compact and, in certain cases, advertisements related thereto, submitted by insurers authorized to do business in one or more compacting jurisdictions; to give appropriate uniform standards; to improve coordination of regulatory resources and expertise between state insurance departments regarding the setting of uniform standards and review of the insurance products covered by the Compact; to create the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission; and to perform these and such other related functions as may be consistent with the state regulation of the business of insurance. A compacting state includes any state which has enacted the legislation and has not withdrawn or been terminated. This Act also designates the Delaware Insurance Commissioner as the State representative to the Commission. Currently, 45 states and Puerto Rico have adopted this Compact and 1 additional state has pending legislation.