

WORKERS' COMPENSATION LIABILITY INSURANCE

515A.1 Purpose of chapter.

The purpose of this chapter is to promote the public welfare by regulating insurance rates to the end that they shall not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory, and to authorize and regulate co-operative action among insurers in rate making and in other matters within the scope of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter is intended (1) to prohibit or discourage reasonable competition, or (2) to prohibit, or encourage except to the extent necessary to accomplish the aforementioned purpose, uniformity in insurance rates, rating systems, rating plans or practices. This chapter shall be liberally interpreted to carry into effect the provisions of this section.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.1, 515B.1; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.1]

515A.2 Definitions scope of chapter.

1. As used in this chapter:

a. "Insurance" means workers' compensation liability insurance.

b. "Insurer" means an insurer which issues a policy of workers' compensation liability insurance.

c. "Policy" means a policy of workers' compensation liability insurance.

d. "Rate" means a rate for workers' compensation liability insurance.

e. "Rating organization" means a workers' compensation rating organization licensed pursuant to this chapter.

f. "Rate filing" means a rate filing by a rating organization or an insurer.

2. This chapter applies only to workers' compensation liability insurance.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.2, 515B.2; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.2]

90 Acts, ch 1234, §43

515A.3 Making of rates.

1. Rates shall be made in accordance with the following provisions:

a. Rates shall not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory.

b. Due consideration shall be given to past and prospective loss experience within and outside this state, to the conflagration and catastrophe hazards, to a reasonable margin for underwriting profit and contingencies, to dividends, savings, or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders, members or subscribers, to past and prospective expenses both countrywide and those specially applicable to this state, and to all other relevant factors within and outside this state; and in the case of fire insurance rates consideration shall be given to the experience of the fire insurance business during a period of not less than the most recent five-year period for which such experience is available.

c. The systems of expense provisions included in the rates for use by any insurer or group of insurers may differ from those of other insurers or group of insurers to reflect the requirements of the operating methods of

any such insurer or group of insurers with respect to any kind of insurance, or with respect to any subdivision or combination thereof for which subdivision or combination separate expense provisions are applicable.

d. Risks may be grouped by classifications for the establishment of rates and minimum premiums. Classification rates may be modified to produce rates for individual risks in accordance with rating plans which establish standards for measuring variations in hazards or expense provisions, or both. Such standards may measure any differences among risks that can be demonstrated to have a probable effect upon losses or expenses.

2. Except to the extent necessary to meet the provisions of paragraph "a" of subsection 1 of this section, uniformity among insurers in any matters within the scope of this section is neither required nor prohibited.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.3, 515B.3; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.3]

515A.4 Rate filings.

1. Every insurer shall file with the commissioner, except as to inland marine risks which by general custom of the business are not written according to manual rates or rating plans, every manual, minimum, class rate, rating schedule or rating plan and every other rating rule, and every modification of any of the foregoing which it proposes to use. Every such filing shall state the proposed effective date thereof, and shall indicate the character and extent of the coverage contemplated.

When a filing is not accompanied by the information upon which the insurer supports such filing, and the commissioner does not have sufficient information to determine whether such filing meets the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner shall require such insurer to furnish the information upon which it supports such filing and in such event the waiting period shall commence as of the date such information is furnished. The information furnished in support of a filing may include the experience or judgment of the insurer or rating organization making the filing, its interpretation of any statistical data it relies upon, the experience of other insurers or rating organizations, or any other relevant factors. A filing and any supporting information shall be open to public inspection upon filing. Specific inland marine rates on risks specially rated, made by a rating organization, shall be filed with the commissioner.

2. An insurer may satisfy its obligation to make such filings by becoming a member of, or a subscriber to, a licensed rating organization which makes such filings, and by authorizing the commissioner to accept such filings on its behalf; provided that nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as requiring any insurer to become a member of or a subscriber to any rating organization.

3. The commissioner shall review filings as soon as reasonably possible after they have been made in order to determine whether they meet the requirements of this chapter.

4. Subject to the exception specified in subsection 5 of this section, each filing shall be on file for a waiting period of thirty days before it becomes effective, which period may be extended by the commissioner for an additional period not to exceed fifteen days if the commissioner gives written notice within the waiting period to the insurer or rating organization which made the filing that the commissioner needs additional time for the consideration of the filing. Upon written application by the insurer or rating organization, the commissioner may authorize a filing which the commissioner has reviewed to become effective before the expiration of the waiting period or any extension of the period. A filing shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this chapter unless disapproved by the commissioner within thirty days of receipt by the commissioner.

5. Specific inland marine rates on risks specially rated by a rating organization, or any specific filing with respect to a surety or guaranty bond required by law or by court or executive order, rule or regulation of a public body and not covered by a previous filing, shall become effective when filed and shall be deemed to

meet the requirements of this chapter until such time as the commissioner reviews the filing and so long thereafter as the filing remains in effect.

6. Under such rules and regulations as the commissioner shall adopt the commissioner may, by written order, suspend or modify the requirement of filing as to any kind of insurance, subdivision or combination thereof, or as to classes of risks, the rates for which cannot practicably be filed before they are used. Such order, rules and regulations shall be made known to insurers and rating organizations affected thereby. The commissioner may make such examination as the commissioner may deem advisable to ascertain whether any rates affected by such order meet the standards set forth in paragraph "b" of subsection 1 of section 515A.3.

7. Upon the written application of the insured, stating the insured's reasons therefor, filed with and approved by the commissioner a rate in excess of that provided by a filing otherwise applicable may be used on any specific risk.

8. No insurer shall make or issue a contract or policy except in accordance with the filings which are in effect for said insurer as provided in this chapter or in accordance with subsections 6 or 7 of this section. This subsection shall not apply to contracts or policies for inland marine risks as to which filings are not required.

9. If a hearing is requested pursuant to section 515A.6, subsection 7, a filing shall not take effect until thirty days after formal approval is given by the commissioner.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.4, 515B.4; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.4]

87 Acts, ch 132, § 5; 92 Acts, ch 1162, § 39; 93 Acts, ch 88, §20

515A.5 Disapproval of filings.

1. If within the waiting period or any extension thereof as provided in subsection 4 of section 515A.4, the commissioner finds that a filing does not meet the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner shall send to the insurer or rating organization which made such filing, written notice of disapproval of such filing specifying therein in what respects the commissioner finds such filing fails to meet the requirements of this chapter and stating that such filing shall not become effective.

2. If within thirty days after a specific inland marine rate on a risk especially rated by a rating organization subject to subsection 5 of section 515A.4 has become effective or, if within thirty days after a special surety or guaranty filing subject to subsection 5 of section 515A.4 has become effective, the commissioner finds that such filing does not meet the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner shall send to the rating organization or insurer which made such filing written notice of disapproval of such filing specifying therein in what respects the commissioner finds that such filing fails to meet the requirements of this chapter and stating when, within a reasonable period thereafter, such filing shall be deemed no longer effective. Said disapproval shall not affect any contract made or issued prior to the expiration of the period set forth in said notice.

3. If at any time subsequent to the applicable review period provided for in subsection 1 or 2 of this section, the commissioner finds that a filing does not meet the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner shall, after a hearing held upon not less than ten days' written notice, specifying the matters to be considered at such hearing, to every insurer and rating organization which made such filing, issue an order specifying in what respects the commissioner finds that such filing fails to meet the requirements of this chapter, and stating when, within a reasonable period thereafter, such filing shall be deemed no longer effective. Copies of said order shall be sent to every such insurer and rating organization. Said order shall not affect any contract or policy made or issued prior to the expiration of the period set forth in said order.

4. Any person or organization aggrieved with respect to any filing which is in effect may make written

application to the commissioner for a hearing thereon, provided, however, that the insurer that made the filing shall not be authorized to proceed under this subsection. Such application shall specify the grounds to be relied upon by the applicant and such application must show that the person or organization making such application has a specific economic interest affected by the filing. If the commissioner shall find that the application is made in good faith, that the applicant has a specific economic interest, that the applicant would be so aggrieved if the applicant's grounds are established, and that such grounds otherwise justify holding such a hearing, the commissioner shall within thirty days after receipt of such application hold a hearing, upon not less than ten days' written notice to the applicant and to every insurer and rating organization which made such filing. No rating or advisory organization shall have any status under this chapter to make application for a hearing on any filing made by an insurer with the commissioner.

If, after such hearing, the commissioner finds that the filing does not meet the requirements of this chapter, the commissioner shall issue an order specifying in what respects the commissioner finds that such filing fails to meet the requirements of this chapter, and stating when, within a reasonable period thereafter, such filing shall be deemed no longer effective. Copies of said order shall be sent to the applicant and to every such insurer and rating organization. Said order shall not affect any contract or policy made or issued prior to the expiration of the period set forth in said order.

5. No filing shall be disapproved if the rates thereby produced meet the requirements of this chapter.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.5, 515B.5; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.5]

515A.6 Rating organizations.

1. A corporation, an unincorporated association, a partnership or an individual, whether located within or outside this state, may make application to the commissioner for license as a rating organization for such kinds of insurance, or subdivision or class of risk or a part or combination thereof as are specified in its application and shall file therewith (a) a copy of its constitution, its articles of agreement or association or its certificate of incorporation, and of its bylaws, rules and regulations governing the conduct of its business, (b) a list of its members and subscribers, (c) the name and address of a resident of this state upon whom notices or orders of the commissioner or process affecting such rating organization may be served and (d) a statement of its qualifications as a rating organization. If the commissioner finds that the applicant is competent, trustworthy and otherwise qualified to act as a rating organization and that its constitution, articles of agreement or association or certificate of incorporation, and its bylaws, rules and regulations governing the conduct of its business conform to the requirements of law, the commissioner shall issue a license specifying the kinds of insurance, or subdivisions or classes of risks or parts or combinations thereof for which the applicant is authorized to act as a rating organization. Every such application shall be granted or denied in whole or in part by the commissioner within sixty days of the date of its filing with the commissioner. Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall remain in effect for three years unless sooner suspended or revoked by the commissioner. The fee for said license shall be twenty-five dollars. Licenses issued pursuant to this section may be suspended or revoked by the commissioner, after hearing upon notice, in the event the rating organization ceases to meet the requirements of this subsection. Every rating organization shall notify the commissioner promptly of every change in (a) its constitution, its articles of agreement or association, or its certificate of incorporation, and its bylaws, rules and regulations governing the conduct of its business, (b) its list of members and subscribers and (c) the name and address of the resident of this state designated by it upon whom notices or orders of the commissioner or process affecting such rating organization may be served.

2. Subject to rules and regulations which have been approved by the commissioner as reasonable, each rating organization shall permit any insurer, not a member, to be a subscriber to its rating services for any kind of insurance, subdivision, or class of risk or a part or combination thereof for which it is authorized to act as a rating organization. Notice of proposed changes in such rules and regulations shall be given to subscribers. Each rating organization shall furnish its rating services without discrimination to its members and

subscribers. The reasonableness of any rule or regulation in its application to subscribers, or the refusal of any rating organization to admit an insurer as a subscriber, shall, at the request of any subscriber or any such insurer, be reviewed by the commissioner at a hearing held upon at least ten days' written notice to such rating organization and to such subscriber or insurer. If the commissioner finds that such rule or regulation is unreasonable in its application to subscribers, the commissioner shall order that such rule or regulation shall not be applicable to subscribers. If the rating organization fails to grant or reject an insurer's application for subscribership within thirty days after it was made, the insurer may request a review by the commissioner as if the application had been rejected. If the commissioner finds that the insurer has been refused admittance to the rating organization as a subscriber without justification, the commissioner shall order the rating organization to admit the insurer as a subscriber. If the commissioner finds that the action of the rating organization was justified the commissioner shall make an order affirming its action.

3. No rating organization shall adopt any rule the effect of which would be to prohibit or regulate the payment of dividends, savings or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders, members or subscribers.

4. Cooperation among rating organizations or among rating organizations and insurers in rate making or in other matters within the scope of this chapter is hereby authorized, provided the filings resulting from such cooperation are subject to all the provisions of this chapter which are applicable to filings generally. The commissioner may review such cooperative activities and practices and if, after a hearing, the commissioner finds that any such activity or practices is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner may issue a written order specifying in what respects such activity or practice is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, and requiring the discontinuance of such activity or practice.

5. Any rating organization may provide for the examination of policies, daily reports, binders, renewal certificates, endorsements or other evidences of insurance, or the cancellation thereof, and may make reasonable rules governing their submission. Such rules shall contain a provision that in the event any insurer does not within sixty days furnish satisfactory evidence to the rating organization of the correction of any error or omission previously called to its attention by the rating organization, it shall be the duty of the rating organization to notify the commissioner thereof. All information so submitted for examination shall be confidential.

6. Any rating organization may subscribe for or purchase actuarial, technical or other services, and such services shall be available to all members and subscribers without discrimination.

7. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code, the commissioner of insurance shall provide for a hearing in a proceeding involving a workers' compensation insurance rate filing by a licensed rating organization in accordance with the provisions of this subsection and rules promulgated by the commissioner of insurance pursuant to chapter 17A. Except as otherwise provided herein, the provisions of this subsection shall not be subject to the requirements of chapter 17A. The procedures for such hearing shall be as follows:

a. The commissioner shall provide notice of the filing of the proposed rates at least thirty days before the effective date of the proposed rates by publishing a notice in the Iowa administrative bulletin.

b. A public hearing shall be held on the proposed rates by the commissioner of insurance if within fifteen days of the date of publication a workers' compensation policyholder or an established organization with one or more workers' compensation policyholders among its members files a written demand with the commissioner of insurance for a hearing on the proposed rates.

c. The commissioner of insurance shall hold the hearing within twenty days after receipt of the written demand for a hearing and shall give not less than ten days written notice of the time and place of the hearing to the person or association filing the demand, to the rating organization, and to any other person requesting

such notice.

d. At any such hearing, the rating organization shall bear the burden of proof to support the proposed rates by a preponderance of the evidence. The person or association requesting the hearing, and any other person admitted as a party to the proceeding, shall be given the opportunity to respond and introduce evidence and arguments on all the issues involved.

e. Within fifteen days after the start of the hearing, the commissioner of insurance will approve or disapprove the proposed rates and specify the reasons therefor. The commissioner of insurance may suspend or postpone the effective date of the proposed rates pending the hearing and written decision thereon.

f. Judicial review of the decision of the commissioner of insurance on such rates may be sought in accordance with the provisions of chapter 17A.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.6, 515B.6; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.6]

515A.7 Deviations.

Every member of or subscriber to a rating organization shall adhere to the filings made on its behalf by such organization except that any such insurer may make written application to the commissioner to file a deviation from the class rates, schedules, rating plans or rules respecting any kind of insurance, or class of risk within a kind of insurance, or combination thereof. Such application shall specify the basis for the modification and a copy shall also be sent simultaneously to such rating organization. In considering the application to file such deviation the commissioner shall give consideration to the available statistics and the principles for rate making as provided in section 515A.3. The commissioner shall issue an order permitting the deviation for such insurer to be filed if the commissioner finds it to be justified and it shall thereupon become effective. The commissioner shall issue an order denying such application if the commissioner finds that the deviation applied for does not meet the requirements of this chapter.

Each deviation permitted to be filed shall remain in effect for a period of not less than one year from the effective date unless sooner withdrawn by the insurer with the approval of the commissioner or until terminated in accordance with the provisions of section 515A.5.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.7, 515B.7; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.7]

515A.8 Appeal by minority.

Any member or subscriber to a rating organization may appeal to the commissioner from the action or decision of such rating organization in approving or rejecting any proposed change in or addition to the filings of such rating organization and the commissioner shall, after a hearing held upon not less than ten days' written notice to the appellant, and to such rating organization, issue an order approving the action or decision of such rating organization or directing it to give further consideration to such proposal, or, if such appeal is from the action or decision of the rating organization in rejecting a proposed addition to its filings, the commissioner may, in the event the commissioner finds that such action or decision was unreasonable, issue an order directing the rating organization to make an addition to its filings, on behalf of its members and subscribers, in a manner consistent with the findings, within a reasonable time after the issuance of such order.

If such appeal is based upon the failure of the rating organization to make a filing on behalf of such member or subscriber, which is based on a system of expense provisions which differs, in accordance with the right granted in paragraph "c" of subsection 1 of section 515A.3, from the system of expense provisions included

in a filing made by the rating organization, the commissioner shall, if the commissioner grants the appeal, order the rating organization to make the requested filing for use by the appellant. In deciding such appeal the commissioner shall apply the standards set forth in section 515A.3.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.8, 515B.8; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.8]

515A.9 Information to be furnished insureds hearings and appeals of insureds.

Every rating organization and every insurer which makes its own rate shall, within a reasonable time after receiving written request therefor and upon payment of such reasonable charge as it may make, furnish to any insured affected by a rate made by it, or to the authorized representative of such insured, all pertinent information as to such rate. Every rating organization and every insurer which makes its own rates shall provide within this state reasonable means whereby any person aggrieved by the application of its rating system may be heard, in person or by the person's authorized representative, on the person's written request to review the manner in which such rating system has been applied in connection with the insurance afforded the person. If the rating organization or insurer fails to grant or reject such request within thirty days after it is made, applicant may proceed in the same manner as if the application had been rejected. Any party affected by the action of such rating organization or such insurer on such request may, within thirty days after written notice of such action, appeal to the commissioner, who, after a hearing held upon not less than ten days' written notice to the appellant and to such rating organization or insurer, may affirm or reverse such action.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.9, 515B.9; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.9]

515A.10 Advisory organizations.

1. Every group, association or other organization of insurers, whether located within or outside of this state, which assists insurers which make their own filings or rating organizations in rate making, by the collection and furnishing of loss or expense statistics, or by the submission of recommendations, but which does not make filings under this chapter, shall be known as an advisory organization.
2. Every advisory organization shall file with the commissioner (*a*) a copy of its constitution, its articles of agreement or association or its certificate of incorporation and of its bylaws, rules and regulations governing its activities, (*b*) a list of its members, (*c*) the name and address of a resident of this state upon whom notices or orders of the commissioner or process issued at the commissioner's direction may be served, and (*d*) an agreement that the commissioner may examine such advisory organization in accordance with the provisions of section 515A.12.
3. If, after a hearing, the commissioner finds that the furnishing of such information or assistance involves any act or practice which is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner may issue a written order specifying in what respects such act or practice is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, and requiring the discontinuance of such act or practice.
4. No insurer which makes its own filings nor any rating organization shall support its filings by statistics or adopt rate making recommendations, furnished to it by an advisory organization which has not complied with this section or with an order of the commissioner involving such statistics or recommendations issued under subsection 3 of this section. If the commissioner finds such insurer or rating organization to be in violation of this subsection the commissioner may issue an order requiring the discontinuance of such violation.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.10, 515B.10; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.10]

515A.11 Joint underwriting or joint reinsurance.

1. Every group, association or other organization of insurers which engages in joint underwriting or joint reinsurance, shall be subject to regulation with respect thereto as herein provided, subject, however, with respect to joint underwriting, to all other provisions of this chapter and, with respect to joint reinsurance, to sections 515A.12 and 515A.16 to 515A.19.

2. If, after a hearing, the commissioner finds that any activity or practice of any such group, association or other organization is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner may issue a written order specifying in what respects such activity or practice is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, and requiring the discontinuance of such activity or practice.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.11, 515B.11; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.11]

515A.12 Examinations.

The commissioner shall, at least once in five years, make or cause to be made an examination of each rating organization licensed in this state as provided in section 515A.6 and the commissioner may, as often as the commissioner may deem it expedient, make or cause to be made an examination of each advisory organization referred to in section 515A.10 and of each group, association or other organization referred to in section 515A.11. The reasonable costs of any such examination shall be paid by the rating organization, advisory organization or group, association or other organization examined upon presentation to it of a detailed account of such costs. The officers, manager, agents and employees of such rating organization, advisory organization, or group, association or other organization may be examined at any time under oath and shall exhibit all books, records, accounts, documents, or agreements governing its method of operation. In lieu of any such examination the commissioner may accept the report of an examination made by the insurance supervisory official of another state, pursuant to the laws of such state.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.12, 515B.12; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.12]

515A.13 Rate administration.

1. *Recording and reporting of loss and expense experience.* The commissioner shall promulgate reasonable rules and statistical plans, reasonably adapted to each of the rating systems on file with the commissioner, which may be modified from time to time and which shall be used thereafter by each insurer in the recording and reporting of its loss and countrywide expense experience, in order that the experience of all insurers may be made available at least annually in such form and detail as may be necessary to aid the commissioner in determining whether rating systems comply with the standards set forth in section 515A.3. Such rules and plans may also provide for the recording and reporting of expense experience items which are specially applicable to this state and are not susceptible of determination by a prorating of countywide expense experience. In promulgating such rules and plans, the commissioner shall give due consideration to the rating systems on file and, in order that such rules and plans may be as uniform as is practicable among the several states, to the rules and to the form of the plans used for such rating systems in other states. No insurer shall be required to record or report its loss experience on a classification basis that is inconsistent with the rating system filed by it. The commissioner may designate one or more rating organizations or other agencies to assist in gathering such experience and making compilations thereof, and such compilations shall be made available, subject to reasonable rules promulgated by the commissioner, to insurers and rating organizations.

2. *Interchange of rating plan data.* Reasonable rules and plans may be promulgated by the commissioner for the interchange of data necessary for the application of rating plans.

3. *Consultation with other states.* In order to further uniform administration of rate regulatory laws, the commissioner and every insurer and rating organization may exchange information and experience data with insurance supervisory officials, insurers and rating organizations in other states and may consult with them

with respect to rate making and the application of rating systems.

4. *Rules and regulations.* The commissioner may make reasonable rules necessary to effect the purposes of this chapter.

5. *Prohibited release.* A person other than the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall not release to another person, other than to the servicing insurer of the policy or to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, experience, payroll, loss data, expiration date of a policy, or classification information without the prior written approval of the policyholder. A violation of this section shall be considered an unfair trade practice pursuant to chapter 507B.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.13, 515B.13; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.13]

94 Acts, ch 1176, §13

515A.14 False or misleading information.

No person or organization shall willfully withhold information from, or knowingly give false or misleading information to, the commissioner, any statistical agency designated by the commissioner, any rating organization, or any insurer, which will affect the rates or premiums chargeable under this chapter. A violation of this section shall subject the one guilty of such violation to the penalties provided in section 515A.17.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.14, 515B.14; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.14]

515A.15 Assigned risks.

Agreements shall be made among insurers with respect to the equitable apportionment among them of insurance which may be afforded applicants who are in good faith entitled to but who are unable to procure such insurance through ordinary methods and such insurers may agree among themselves on the use of reasonable rate modifications for such insurance, the agreements and rate modifications to be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

For purposes of this section, "*insurer*" includes, in addition to insurers defined pursuant to section 515A.2, a self-insurance association formed on or after July 1, 1995, pursuant to section 87.4 except for an association comprised of cities or counties, or both, or an association comprised of community colleges as defined in section 260C.2, which have entered into an agreement pursuant to chapter 28E for the purpose of establishing a self-insured program for the payment of workers' compensation benefits.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.15]

95 Acts, ch 185, §24

515A.15A Deductible policies in workers' compensation.

The commissioner may enter an order under section 515A.18 to assure availability within this state of a policy under this chapter which provides as part of the policy, or as an endorsement to the policy, an option for a deductible related to benefits payable under a policy issued pursuant to this chapter. The order may make provisions for changes in experience ratings, premium surcharges, or any other modification, as a result of issuance of a policy, or of an endorsement to the policy, pursuant to the order. Under an order entered pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall provide that if the policyholder selects a deductible option, the insured employer is liable for all of the amount of the deductible for benefits paid for each compensable claim of an employee under the policy.

92 Acts, ch 1053, § 1

515A.15B Applicants unable to procure insurance through ordinary methods.

An agreement among licensed insurers to offer workers' compensation insurance for applicants unable to procure workers' compensation insurance through ordinary methods shall be administered by a rating organization licensed under this chapter.

98 Acts, ch 1057, §10

515A.16 Premiums.

An agent shall not knowingly charge, demand, or receive a premium for any policy of insurance except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.16, 515B.15; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.16]

93 Acts, ch 88, §21

515A.17 Penalties.

The commissioner may, if the commissioner finds that any person or organization has violated any provision of this chapter, impose a penalty of not more than fifty dollars for each such violation, but if the commissioner finds such violation to be willful the commissioner may impose a penalty of not more than five hundred dollars for each such violation. Such penalties may be in addition to any other penalty provided by law.

The commissioner may suspend the license of any rating organization or insurer which fails to comply with an order of the commissioner within the time limited by such order, or any extension thereof which the commissioner may grant. The commissioner shall not suspend the license of any rating organization or insurer for failure to comply with an order until the time prescribed for an appeal therefrom has expired or if an appeal has been taken, until such order has been affirmed. The commissioner may determine when a suspension of license shall become effective and it shall remain in effect for the period fixed by the commissioner, unless the commissioner modifies or rescinds such suspension, or until the order upon which such suspension is based is modified, rescinded or reversed.

No penalty shall be imposed and no license shall be suspended or revoked except upon a written order of the commissioner, stating the commissioner's findings, made after a hearing held upon not less than ten days' written notice to such person or organization specifying the alleged violation.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.17, 515B.16; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.17]

515A.18 Hearing procedure and judicial review.

1. Any person, insurer or rating organization to which the commissioner has directed an order made without a hearing may, within thirty days after notice to it of such order, make written request to the commissioner for a hearing thereon. The commissioner shall hear such party or parties within twenty days after receipt of such request and shall give not less than ten days' written notice of the time and place of the hearing. Within fifteen days after such hearing the commissioner shall affirm, reverse or modify the previous action, specifying the commissioner's reasons therefor. Pending such hearing and decision thereon the commissioner may suspend or postpone the effective date of the commissioner's previous action.

2. Nothing contained in this chapter shall require the observance at any hearing of formal rules of pleading or

evidence.

3. Judicial review of the actions of the commissioner may be sought in accordance with the terms of the Iowa administrative procedure Act, chapter 17A.

The court shall determine whether the filing of the petition for such writ shall operate as a stay of any such order or decision of the commissioner. The court may, in disposing of the issue before it, modify, affirm or reverse the order or decision of the commissioner in whole or in part.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.18, 515B.17; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.18]

2003 Acts, ch 44, §114

515A.19 Laws affected.

Compliance with this chapter shall not be deemed to be a violation of section 515.131.

[C50, 54, 58, 62, § 515A.19, 515B.18; C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 515A.19]

515A.20 through 515A.25 Transferred to sections 515F.20 through 515F.25; 90 Acts, ch 1234, §77.