

505.8 General powers and duties.

1. The commissioner of insurance shall be the head of the division, and shall have general control, supervision, and direction over all insurance business transacted in the state, and shall enforce all the laws of the state relating to such insurance.
2. The commissioner shall, subject to chapter 17A, establish, publish, and enforce rules not inconsistent with law for the enforcement of this subtitle and for the enforcement of the laws, the administration and supervision of which are imposed on the division, including rules to establish fees sufficient to administer the laws, where appropriate fees are not otherwise provided for in rule or statute.
3. The commissioner shall supervise all transactions relating to the organization, reorganization, liquidation, and dissolution of domestic insurance corporations, and all transactions leading up to the organization of such corporations.
4. The commissioner shall also supervise the sale in the state of all stock, certificates, or other evidences of interest, either by domestic or foreign insurance companies or organizations proposing to engage in any insurance business.
5. The commissioner shall supervise all health insurance purchasing cooperatives providing services or operating within the state and the organization of domestic cooperatives. The commissioner may admit nondomestic health insurance purchasing cooperatives under the same standards as domestic cooperatives.
6.
 - a. Notwithstanding chapter 22, the commissioner shall keep confidential both information obtained in the course of an investigation and information submitted to the insurance division pursuant to chapters 514J and 515D.
 - b. The commissioner shall adopt rules protecting the privacy of information held by an insurer or an agent consistent with the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, Pub. L. No. 106-102.
 - c. However, notwithstanding paragraphs "a" and "b", if the commissioner determines that it is necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of the public, the commissioner may share information with other regulatory authorities or governmental agencies or may publish information concerning a violation of this chapter or a rule or order under this chapter. Such information may be redacted so that personally identifiable information is not made available.
 - d. The commissioner may adopt rules protecting the privacy of information submitted to the insurance division consistent with this section.
7. Notwithstanding chapter 22, the commissioner may keep confidential any social security number, residence address, and residence telephone number that is contained in a record filed as part of a licensing, registration, or filing process if disclosure is not required in the performance of any duty or is not otherwise required under law.
8. The commissioner may, after a hearing conducted pursuant to chapter 17A, assess fines or penalties, order restitution, or take other corrective action as the commissioner deems necessary and appropriate to accomplish compliance with the laws of the state relating to all insurance business transacted in the state.
9. The commissioner may do any of the following:
 - a. Conduct public or private investigations within or outside of this state which the commissioner deems necessary or appropriate to determine whether a person has violated, is violating, or is about to violate a provision of any chapter of this subtitle or a rule adopted or order issued under any chapter of this subtitle, or

to aid in the enforcement of any chapter of this subtitle or in the adoption of rules and forms under any chapter of this subtitle.

b. Require or permit a person to testify, file a statement, or produce a record under oath or otherwise as the commissioner determines, concerning facts and circumstances relating to a matter being investigated or about which an action or proceeding will be instituted.

c. Notwithstanding subsection 6, publish a record concerning an action, proceeding, or investigation under, or a violation of, any chapter of this subtitle or a rule adopted or order issued under any chapter of this subtitle, if the commissioner determines that such publication is in the public interest and is necessary and appropriate for the protection of the public.

10. For the purpose of an investigation made under any chapter of this subtitle, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, seek compulsory attendance, take evidence, require the filing of statements, and require the production of any records that the commissioner considers relevant or material to the investigation, pursuant to rules adopted under chapter 17A.

11. If a person does not appear or refuses to testify, or does not file a statement or produce records, or otherwise does not obey a subpoena or order issued by the commissioner under any chapter of this subtitle, the commissioner may, in addition to assessing the penalties contained in sections 505.7A, 507B.6A, 507B.7, 522B.11, and 522B.17, make application to a district court of this state or another state to enforce compliance with the subpoena or order. A court to whom application is made to enforce compliance with a subpoena or order pursuant to this subtitle may do any of the following:

a. Hold the person in contempt.

b. Order the person to appear before the commissioner.

c. Order the person to testify about the matter under investigation.

d. Order the production of records.

e. Grant injunctive relief, including restricting or prohibiting the offer or sale of insurance or insurance advice.

f. Impose a civil penalty as set forth in section 505.7A.

g. Grant any other necessary or appropriate relief.

12. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a person from applying to a district court of this state or another state for relief from a subpoena or order issued by the commissioner under any chapter of this subtitle.

13. An individual shall not be relieved of an order to appear, testify, file a statement, produce a record or other evidence, or obey a subpoena or other order of the commissioner made under any chapter of this subtitle on the grounds that fulfillment of the requirement may, directly or indirectly, tend to incriminate the individual or subject the individual to a criminal fine, penalty, or forfeiture. If an individual refuses to obey a subpoena or order by asserting that individual's privilege against self-incrimination, the commissioner may apply to the district court to compel the individual to obey the subpoena or order of the commissioner. Testimony, records, or other evidence that is compelled by a court enforcing an order of the commissioner shall not be used, directly or indirectly, against that individual in a criminal case, except in a prosecution for perjury or contempt or for otherwise failing to comply with the order.

14. Upon request of the insurance regulator of another state or foreign jurisdiction, the commissioner may provide assistance in conducting an investigation to determine whether a person has violated, is violating, or is about to violate an insurance law or rule of the other state or foreign jurisdiction administered or enforced by that insurance regulator. The commissioner may provide such assistance pursuant to the powers conferred under this section as the commissioner determines is necessary or appropriate under the circumstances. Such assistance may be provided regardless of whether the conduct being investigated would constitute a violation of this subtitle or any other law of this state if the conduct occurred in this state. In determining whether to provide such assistance the commissioner may consider whether the insurance regulator requesting the assistance is permitted to and has agreed to reciprocate in providing assistance to the commissioner upon request, whether compliance with the request would violate or prejudice the public policy of this state, and the availability of division commissioner resources and employees to provide such assistance.

[S13, § 1683-r3; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § **8613**; C46, 50, 54, § 505.8; C58, 62, § 505.8, 522.3; C66, 71, 73, § 505.8, 515.150, 522.3; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 505.8]

83 Acts, ch 27, § 10; 88 Acts, ch 1159, § 2; 90 Acts, ch 1234, § 2; 94 Acts, ch 1176, §3; 97 Acts, ch 23, §61; 98 Acts, ch 1119, § 3; 99 Acts, ch 114, §41; 2000 Acts, ch 1023, §4, 5; 2002 Acts, ch 1111, §6; 2003 Acts, ch 91, §2; 2007 Acts, ch 137, §6; 2007 Acts, ch 215, §117

Footnotes

See also §523A.801 and 523I.201