

515A.6 Rating organizations.

1. *a.* A corporation, an unincorporated association, a partnership, or an individual, whether located within or outside this state, may make application to the commissioner for a 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 with the application all of the following:

(1) 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.

(2) A list of its members and subscribers.

(3) 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.

(4) A statement of its qualifications as a rating organization.

b. 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.

c. Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall remain in effect for three years unless sooner suspended or revoked by the commissioner. The fee for the license shall be one hundred dollars.

d. 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.

e. Every rating organization shall notify the commissioner promptly of every change in any of the following:

(1) 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.

(2) Its list of members and subscribers.

(3) 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 on the internet website of the insurance division of the department of commerce.

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.

g. Absent a request for a hearing as provided in paragraph "b", the commissioner shall issue an order approving or disapproving the proposed rates.

h. The waiting period for a workers' compensation insurance rate filing shall commence no earlier than the date that notice of the insurance rate filing is published.

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

2006 Acts, ch 1117, §69; 2007 Acts, ch 22, §89; 2008 Acts, ch 1123, §33 - 35

Referred to in §515A.4, 515A.12