## MINUTES OF THE SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ruth Teichman at 9:30 a.m. on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator David Corbin- excused

### Committee staff present:

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research Ken Wilke, Office of Revisor Statutes Nancy Shaughnessy, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Brad Smoot, BC-BS
Jarrod Forbes, KID
David Hanson, KS Property & Casualty
Ron Gaches
Bob Tomlinson, KID
Jim Hall, Am. Council of Life Insurers

#### Others attending:

See Attached List.

The Chair opened the hearing on <u>SB 546</u>—Insurance; transfer and novation of insurance and group life insurance.

Brad Smoot stated that Advance Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Blue Cross-Blue Shield requesting the legislation.(Attachment 1) The purpose is to establish a new Kansas domestic life insurance company and facilitate the transfer of the Kansas business from the Arizona company to the new Kansas company. Kansas has no statutes establishing a formal process by which one carrier can transfer business to another.

The legislation would also amend Kansas law to allow for the issuance of employee paid group term life insurance through a Kansas based trust to eliminate the current statutory\_limit (50%) on benefits available to dependents under a group life insurance policy.

Jarrod Forbes testified in support of the bill and that the Kansas Insurance Department wished to be on the record in support of the bill.

Dave Hanson spoke in support of the bill (<u>Attachment 2</u>). He stated the bill would encourage companies to consider Kansas for potential transfers of business, as well as facilitating new business and growth in our state.

The hearing was closed on <u>SB 546</u>. The Chair then opened the hearing on <u>HB 2635</u> and <u>House Sub</u> <u>2635</u>–UCCC, additional charges, insufficient check charges, notice.

Ron Gaches, Kansas Financial Services Corporation testified as a proponent of the bill (<u>Attachment 3</u>). The bill does two things in a very clean manner which balances the interests of the lender community and the consumer community.

The bill allows the lender under the UCCC to charge an amount for an insufficient fund check not to exceed thirty dollars, by giving written notice by first class mail or by clear notice on a regular monthly statement. The bill does not change the amount of the charge levied against the consumer for the insufficient fund check. What the bill does change is the method of notice to the consumer that the charge is being applied.

The second thing the bill does is allows the lender to collect a charge, not to exceed five dollars (\$5), if the borrower makes a single installment payment through an automated clearinghouse procedure on the

#### CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE at 9:30 a.m. on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

borrower's checking account.

He called the Committee's attention to an attached amendment on the bill which the banking commission had not as yet had time to review. Ron asked for a day or so to communicate with the Commission and smooth out the language. They would like to have the bill moved out favorably whether the amendment is added to the bill or not.

Senator Barnett wanted to know if the institution was required to notify the consumer regarding the charge. Mr. Gaches responded that the current language does not require notification but they would have no objection to that language.

The Chair closed the hearing on HB sub 2635.

The Chair opened the hearing on <u>HCR 5027</u> Concurrent resolution urging the Insurance Department and Commissioner to pursue creation of interstate compact.

Bob Tomlinson, who was a former legislator, stated that it was odd for him to be standing there recommending a resolution. (Attachment 4). He was not partial to resolutions due to the fact that if it was good enough to be put in a resolution, why in the world wouldn't it be put into law. In this case, the resolution has some validity, is necessary and the law would be premature at this point.

The two policy decisions contained in the resolution, charge the department with negotiating a compact for the marketing of life and annuity products. A compact with clear high standards for product liability and availability is both desirable and obtainable. The second issue is maintaining state regulation of insurance.

Senator Adkins stated that there are several members of the Senate who would appreciate that certain vehicles called HCR never come to the Senate floor. However, the resolution <u>HCR 5027</u> seems to be advisory at best. If this isn't passed out, how much heartburn would it cause the Department? Senator Adkins continued and asked what the resolution would give the Department that they don't already have?

Mr. Tomlinson stated that one of the reasons for advancing the resolution is that the Department does not believe it could pass the House at this time, without the standards in place. There is currently activity occurring at the federal level regarding insurance that would completely circumvent state regulations.

Additionally, Kansas does have a seat on the compact negotiating committee, primarily due to the fact that our Insurance Commissioner is an elected official. The resolution gives Kansas leadership in terms of what other Department problems people are having in their home states. It also gives Kansas an edge in negotiation at the compact table.

Jim Hall, American Council of Life Insurers testified as a proponent on the HCR (<u>Attachment 5</u>). The ACLI supports the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact. The Compact offers the best opportunity to improve state regulation of insurance in the areas of speed to market and uniformity of policy form requirements.

Senator Adkins wanted to now if there was any reason the Legislature wouldn't just pass the Compact? The conferree responded that it wasn't an issue for him, but there might be legislators who had a problem with the Compact, even thought there are 195 of them active in the United States today.

The Chair closed the hearing on **HCR 5027**. She then moved the agenda to working bills. The first one was <u>SB 534</u>—Commercial real estate; co-brokerage agreement. Copies of a balloon to the bill (<u>Attachment 6</u>) were made by Kansas Real Estate Commission and distributed to the Committee.

Senator Adkins made a motion to adopt the balloon and move the bill out favorably. Senator Barnett seconds. Motion passes.

HB 2580-Banks and banking; general powers brought by the banking Commissioner on Captial

#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE at 9:30 a.m. on March  $10^{\rm th}$ , 2004 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

investment securities.

Senator Adkins made a motion to move the bill out favorably. Senator Helgerson seconds. Motion passes.

The third and final bill to be worked is **HB 2781–Pre-arranged funeral agreements, contracts or plans.**Senator Adkins made a motion to move the bill out favorably. Senator Brungardt seconds. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M..

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11th, 2004.

Name:	Le EDNESDAY Representing:					
Jim HACC -	American Council of Life Insurers.					
Bill Sneed	Amerus Annity					
Larie an Love	KATAP .					
Bud Smoot	Advance					
PON CACHES	KAFS					
David Hanson	Ks Tusur Assus					
Dancy Mairies	Office of State Bank Comm.					
Teun Clenchenin						
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Shan Weben	Community Broken Agen of 15					
land Johns	KIB					
Beb Tomlimon	KID					
Rick Wilborn	Faoureos Allicerca					
LARRY MAGILL	Ks. ASSN. OF INS. AGENTS					
Dan Murray	Frderice Consulting					
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SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE
Date: 3-10-04

# **BRAD SMOOT**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

10200 STATE LINE ROAD SUITE 230 LEAWOOD, KANSAS 66206

800 SW JACKSON, SUITE 808 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612 (785) 233-0016 (785) 234-3687 (fax) bsmoot@nomb.com

Statement of Brad Smoot
Legislative Counsel
Advance Insurance Company
Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
Regarding 2004 SB 546

March 10, 2004

Madam Chair and Members,

Advance Insurance Company is an Arizona domiciled life insurance company owned by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. The company is licensed in 38 states and specializes in group life products. Our product is sold to employers and their employees, usually in conjunction with group accident and health insurance coverage. We currently provide life insurance coverage to approximately 125,000 Kansans.

We requested this legislation in order to establish a new Kansas domestic life insurance company and facilitate the transfer of the Kansas business from the Arizona company to the new Kansas company. In addition, this legislation would amend Kansas law to allow for the issuance of employee paid group term life insurance through a Kansas based trust and to eliminate the current statutory limit (50%) on benefits available to dependents under a group life insurance policy.

Kansas has no statutes establishing a formal process by which one carrier can transfer business to another. Instead, the Insurance Department issued a bulletin (1993-21) that was written to parallel 1992 court case Security Benefit Life Insurance Company v. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 804 F. Supp. 217 (D. Kan. 1992). That bulletin, in essence, precludes a carrier from ceding business to another carrier without the clear consent of the insured, evidenced by a novation agreement between the ceding carrier and the insured. Obviously, this is intended to protect the insured. Unfortunately, under the process that has evolved in Kansas, there is no way to resolve a transfer of business for those insureds that fail to definitively declare their acceptance or rejection. In any transfer of business such as this, there are always some insureds that fail to respond but continue paying premiums. The current reality in Kansas is that carriers are unable to cede business to another carrier.

The NAIC recognized and addressed these sorts of consumer protection issues in their Assumption Reinsurance Model Act that is the basis for the first part of S-546. See New Sections 1 through 10 of this bill. It describes a methodical process by which the Commissioner pre-approves the transfer of business from one carrier to another. The process includes an initial notification to affected policyholders. Policyholders will be able to accept the transfer — in which case the transfer would be consummated immediately. Policyholders would also have the right to reject the transfer, in which case

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tatement of Brad Smoot Regarding SB 546 Page 2

the ceding carrier would retain the coverage indefinitely. As a practical matter, those rejecting the transfer would probably be cancelled unless their policy prohibited such a termination.

Policyholders would also have the right to continue to pay their premium without definitively accepting or rejecting the transfer. The NAIC model (this bill) calls for a 24-month period during which a policyholder has the right to decide whether to accept or reject the transfer. At the end of that 24-month period, those policyholders who have not accepted or rejected the transfer would be sent a final notice to which they would have a month to respond. At the end of that period, those that have continued to pay premiums without definitively accepting or rejecting the transfer would be deemed to have accepted the transfer and moved to the new company. This model legislation will enhance consumer protections, increase the state's regulatory oversight, encourage other carriers to market products in Kansas and, in our case, allow us to create a new Kansas domestic insurance company. About half the states have adopted some version of this model.

Along with the procedural difficulties we face in transferring the business from the Arizona carrier to the new Kansas company, some of the Kansas residents we currently insure are covered under a voluntary employee paid group life insurance product issued through a trust established in Missouri. In order to facilitate the assumption of that trust business by the new Kansas domiciled company (with the Missouri trust business being moved to a Kansas based trust), a couple of minor adjustments are needed in the Kansas laws governing group coverage issued through a trust.

Kansas law does not currently recognize the issuance of group life coverage for which the employer does not contribute at least a portion of the premium. Since some of the group life coverage currently issued through the Missouri trust does not require premium contribution on the part of the employer (only the employee), we are asking that voluntary group life insurance be exempt from the Kansas employer contribution requirement. As well, the Kansas law currently limits the amount of benefit that a dependent under a life insurance policy may buy, in comparison to the amount the actual insured may buy. Group insureds in Kansas have requested higher amounts of coverage for dependents, and it is only through this contract issued in Missouri that we have been able to meet the marketplace demand for dependent coverage benefits that exceed the 50% limitation currently set forth in Kansas law. Once again, the attached legislation exempts that limitation for voluntary group life coverage to accommodate the transfer of this coverage to Kansas. See Section 11.

We know of no public policy reason why Kansas law should not allow the direct sale of these more flexible group insurance products. With these changes, more carriers are likely to offer such products and those who would do so would have a reason to offer such a product through a contract issued in, regulated in, and taxed in Kansas rather than another state, as occurs today. For us, it would mean a seamless transfer of our trust business to a Kansas trust and the payment of our premium taxes to Kansas rather than Missouri. We would appreciate your favorable consideration of S-546.

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force contracts of insurance from a transferring insurer to an assuming insurer; and

(2) is intended to effect a novation of the transferred contract of insurance with the result that the assuming insurer becomes directly liable to the policyholders of the transferring insurer and the transferring insurer's insurance obligations or risks, or both, under the contracts are extinguished.

(c) "Commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of insurance as defined by K.S.A. 40-102 and amendments thereto, unless the context re-

quires otherwise.

- (d) "Contract of insurance" means any written agreement between an insurer and policyholder pursuant to which the insurer, in exchange for premium or other consideration, agrees to assume an obligation or risk, or both, of the policyholder or to make payments on behalf of, or to, the policyholder or its beneficiaries. Contract of insurance includes all property, casualty, life, health, accident, surety, title and annuity business authorized to be written pursuant to the insurance laws of this state.
- (e) "Home service business" means insurance business on which premiums are collected on a weekly or monthly basis by an agent of the insurer.
- (f) "Notice of transfer" means the written notice to policyholders required by section 3 and amendments thereto.
- (g) "Policyholder" means any individual or entity which has the right to terminate or otherwise alter the terms of a contract of insurance.
- ^(h) "Transferring insurer" means the insurer which transfers an insurance obligation or risk, or both, to an assuming insurer pursuant to an assumption reinsurance agreement.
- New Sec. 3. (a) The transferring insurer shall provide or cause to be provided to each policyholder a notice of transfer by first-class mail, addressed to the policyholder's last known address or to the address to which premium notices or other policy documents are sent or, with respect to home service business, by personal delivery with acknowledged receipt. A notice of transfer shall also be sent to the transferring insurer's agents or brokers of record on the affected policies.
  - (b) The notice of transfer shall state or provide:
- (1) The date the transfer and novation of the policyholder's contract of insurance is proposed to take place;
- (2) the name, address and telephone number of the assuming and transferring insurer;
- (3) that the policyholder has the right to either consent to or reject the transfer and novation;
- (4) the procedures and time limit for consenting to or rejecting the transfer and novation;

It includes any certificateholder whose certificate is in force on the proposed effective date of the assumption, if the certificateholder has the right to keep the certificate in force without change in benefit following termination of the group policy.

The right to keep the certificate in force referred to in this section shall not include the right to elect individual coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act ("COBRA") Section 601 et seq., of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 1161 et seq."

commissioner, a transfer and novation may be effected notwithstanding the provisions of this act. This may include a form of implied consent and adequate notification to the policyholder of the circumstances requiring the transfer as approved by the commissioner.

New Sec. 8. Residents of this state whose policies were previously subject to the protections set forth in K.S.A. 40-2901 et seq., and amendments thereto, or K.S.A. 40-3001 et seq., and amendments thereto, and whose policies are transferred to an unlicensed insurer pursuant to this section are entitled to continued protection thereunder.

New Sec. 9. A notice of transfer and form for response by an insured to such a notice shall be deemed to be sufficient for the purposes of this act if it substantially conforms with the following form:

13 NOTICE OF TRANSFER

14 IMPORTANT: THIS NOTICE AFFECTS YOUR CONTRACT

RIGHTS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

16 Transfer of Policy

The [ABC Insurance Company] has agreed to replace us as your insurer under[insert policy/certificate name and number] effective [insert date]. The [ABC Insurance Company's] principal place of business is [insert address] and certain financial information concerning both companies is attached, including (1) ratings for the last five years, if available, or for such lesser period as is available from two nationally recognized insurance rating services; (2) balance sheets for the previous three years, if available, or for such lesser period as is available and as of the date of the most recent quarterly statement; (3) a copy of the Management's Discussion and Analysis that was filed as a supplement to the previous year's annual statement; and (4) an explanation of the reason for the transfer. You may obtain additional information concerning [ABC Insurance Company] from reference materials in your local library or by contacting your Insurance Commissioner at [insert address and phone number].

The [ABC Insurance Company] is licensed to write this coverage in your state. The Commissioner of Insurance in your state has reviewed the potential effect of the proposed transaction, and has approved the transaction.

Your Rights

You may choose to consent to or reject the transfer of your policy to [ABC Insurance Company]. If you want your policy transferred, you may notify us in writing by signing and returning the enclosed pre-addressed, postage-paid card or by writing to us at:

[Insert name, address and facsimile number of contact person.]

Payment of your premium to the assuming company will also constitute acceptance of the transaction. However, a method will be provided to allow you to pay the premium while reserving the right to reject the

act

## KANSAS LIFE INSURANCE ASSOCIATIONS

DAVID A. HANSON, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL 800 S.W. JACKSON, SUITE 900 TOPEKA, KS 66612-1259

> TELEPHONE NO. (785) 232-0545 FAX NO. (785) 232-0005

Kansas Life Insurance Association

Member Companies:

The American Home Life Insurance Company Topeka

American Investors Life Insurance Company Topeka

Employers Reassurance Corporation Overland Park

First Life America Corporation Topeka

Kansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield ' Topeka

Preferred Health Systems Wichita

> The Pyramid Life Insurance Company Shawnee Mission

Security Benefit Life Insurance Company Topeka

**TESTIMONY ON SB 546** March 10, 2004

TO: Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

RE: Senate Bill No. 546

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before the Committee. I am David Hanson and am appearing on behalf of the Kansas Life Insurance Association, whose members are domestic life and health insurance companies in Kansas.

We support this bill as encouraging companies to consider Kansas for potential transfers of business, as well as facilitating new business and growth in our state. We also appreciate the Kansas Insurance Department's review and support of the provisions of the bill. These provisions are based upon NAIC model language, which should help provide uniformity and consistency with any other states adopting similar provisions.

We therefore urge your favorable consideration of the bill.

Respectfully,

DAVID A. HANSON

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Senate F I & I Committee

Meeting Date: 3-10-04

Attachment No.:



# Gaches, Braden, Barbee & Associates

## Governmental Affairs & Association Management

300 SW EIGHTH

**TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603-3912** 

785-233-4512

FAX 785-233-2206

Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee Substitute HB 2635: Uniform Consumer Credit Code Changes **Testimony of Kansas Financial Services Association** Submitted by Ron Gaches, Gaches, Braden, Barbee & Associates Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Thank you Senator Teichman and members of the Committee for this opportunity to comment on behalf of the Kansas Financial Services Association in support of Substitute for House Bill 2635. As amended by the House Committee, the bill makes two changes to the Kansas Uniform Consumer Credit Code:

First, the bill allows the lender under the UCCC to charge an amount for an insufficient fund check not to exceed \$30 by giving written notice by first class mail or by clear notice on a regular monthly statement. The current requirement in the law requires notification by "restricted mail." The bill does not change the amount of the insufficient fund check fee, only the method of notifying the consumer of the charge.

Second, the bill allows a lender to collect a charge not to exceed \$5 if the borrower makes a single installment payment through an automated clearinghouse procedure on the borrower's checking account. No charge would be allowed for the ACH procedure if the creditor collects a delinquency fee on the same installment, or if the consumer and lender have agreed in writing to make all scheduled payments through the ACH procedure.

The House Committee incorporated amendments to the original bill recommended by Kevin Glendening of the Kansas Bank Commissioner's Office as well as the KFSA.

This bill is beneficial to the lender and consumer in two ways. First it reduces the cost of the notice requirement for the lender by eliminating the requirement for restricted mail, but still ensures the consumer receives notice through first class mail or on their monthly notice; and, second authorizes the lender to charge up to \$5 for a service that has become more frequently requested by consumers, but ensures the consumer is not charged a fee for both the electronic transfer and an insufficient fund check charge.

In reviewing the reasonableness of the bill please consider that lenders under the UCCC are only asking for authority already granted to many other lenders. Other institutions are allowed under current law to charge fees for insufficient fund checks without restricted letter notice to the check writer. And nationally chartered banks and their credit card companies, are already able to charge fees for authorized electronic transfer payments.

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- desire to do so after written disclosure to the consumer of the cost thereof.

  With respect to a consumer loan or a consumer credit sale in
  either case pursuant to open end credit, a creditor may charge the following fees in an amount not to exceed that agreed to by the consumer:
  - (a) Fees on a monthly or annual basis;
  - (b) over-limit fees; and
  - (c) cash advance fees. The fees permitted under this subsection are in addition to any finance charges, additional charges or other charges permitted by the uniform consumer credit code.
- 10 (4) A charge not exceeding \$5 per payment, if the borrower makes a
  11 single installment payment by authorizing a creditor, verbally or in writ12 ing, to write a check or process a payment through use of the automated
  13 clearing house procedures on the borrower's checking account, subject to
  14 the following limitations:

or other means

- (A) No charge shall be assessed if the creditor also collects a delinquency fee on the same installment; and
- 17 (B) no charge shall be assessed where the consumer has agreed in 18 writing with the creditor to make all scheduled payments through the use 19 of the automated clearing house procedures.
  - Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2003 Supp. 16a-2-501 is hereby repealed.
- Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

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Sandy Praeger Commissioner of Insurance

March 10, 2004

Testimony on HCR 5027 Kansas Department of Insurance Bob Tomlinson, Assistant Insurance Commissioner

Senator Ruth Teichman Chairwoman, Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Kansas State Senate

Madam Char, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today. HCR 5027 is a resolution requested by the Department of Insurance that asks the legislature to make two important policy declarations. First, it asks for your direction to the Department to negotiate an interstate compact to improve speed to market of life and annuity insurance products nationwide. Secondly, the resolution asks for the legislature to declare their commitment to state regulation of insurance.

HCR 5027 begins with some statements of fact that frame the position of insurance regulation in Kansas. The longevity of the department is mentioned in the clause. In addition it is clearly noted that throughout our history we have been so committed to the course of accountability that we are one of only thirteen states that elects their commissioner. The whereas clauses also make note of the contribution insurance premium taxes make to the state general fund. While it is not stated within the resolution, one of the implied problems with the federal regulation of insurance could be the loss of these funds.

The two policy decisions contained within this resolution are serious in nature and are inseparably joined. The first, charging our department with negotiating a compact for the marketing of life and annuity products reflects our commitment both to the company providing insurance products and the consumers who purchase them. A compact with clear high standards for product reliability and availability is both desirable and obtainable. Bringing more products to market in an efficient well-regulated manner is positive in both costs and selection for Kansas consumers.

The second issue is of critical importance. That is the issue of maintaining state regulation of insurance. The Kansas Insurance Department stands firmly committed to state regulation. We believe that government works best at a level nearest to the people and the accountability that nearness engenders.

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We refuse to ask for the authority to enter into any compact until such time as it is complete and the standards are well defined. To do otherwise would be to abdicate your authority to review such matters.

We urge the legislature to adopt this resolution. We believe it would show our commitment to compact negotiations while reinforcing the people of Kansas' commitment to state insurance regulation.

Attachments:

JAMES D. HALL SENIOR COUNSEL & DIRECTOR CENTRAL STATES REGION jameshall@ACLI.com



March 10, 2004

The Honorable Ruth Teichman Chair, Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee State Capitol 300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street Topeka, KS 66612

Re: **HCR 5027** 

Dear Senator Teichman:

This letter is written on behalf of the American Council of Life Insurers ("ACLI"), a national trade association of 368 life insurance companies whose assets approximate 70% of the life insurance business written in the United States. Three hundred two ACLI members are licensed to do business in Kansas, accounting for 73 percent of the ordinary life insurance in force in the state. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of HCR 5027.

The ACLI supports the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact. We believe that that the Compact offers the best opportunity to improve state regulation of insurance in the areas of speed to market and uniformity of policy form requirements.

The NAIC Compact has been endorsed by the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) and by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). We commend the NAIC for its hard work on this important project.

In light of our support for the NAIC Compact, we accordingly join the Kansas Insurance Department in their support for House Concurrent Resolution 5027.

Sincerely,

James D. Hall

2220 Monrovia, Overland F

TELEPHONE ((913) 897-65 Senate F I & I Committee

Meeting Date: 3-10

Attachment No.:

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earnest money deposit.

(3) If a purchase agreement provides that the earnest money be held by an escrow agent other than a real estate broker and neither the seller nor buyer is represented by a broker, no transaction broker shall:

(A) Fail to deliver the purchase agreement and earnest money deposit to the escrow agent named in the purchase agreement within five business days after the purchase agreement is signed by all parties unless otherwise specifically provided by written agreement of all parties to the purchase agreement, in which case the broker shall deliver the purchase agreement and earnest money deposit to the escrow agent named in the purchase agreement on the date provided by such written agreement; or

(B) fail to obtain and keep in the transaction file a receipt from the escrow agent showing date of delivery of the purchase agreement and

earnest money deposit.

The commission may adopt rules and regulations to require that such purchase agreement which provides that the earnest money be held by an escrow agent other than a real estate broker include: (1) notification of whether or not the escrow agent named in the purchase agreement maintains a surety bond, and (2) notification that statutes governing the disbursement of earnest money held in trust accounts of real estate brokers do not apply to earnest money deposited with the escrow agent named in the purchase agreement.

- (e) A branch broker shall not be employed by or associated with more than one supervising broker at any one time unless each supervising broker who employs or associates with the branch broker consents to such multiple employment or association. Such consent shall be on a form provided by the commission and shall not be effective until a signed copy of the completed form has been filed with the commission.
- (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant any person a private right of action for damages or to eliminate any right of action pursuant to other statutes or common law.

New Sec. 2. (a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Commercial real estate" means any real estate for which the present use is other than (A) one to four residential units or (B) for agricultural purposes.
- (2) "Foreign licensee" means a real estate licensee, in good standing of another state or country.
- (3) Words and phrases used in this section have the meanings ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 58-3035, and amendments thereto.
- (b) A licensee may cooperate with and share commissions or other compensation for services related to commercial real estate with a foreign licensee and such foreign licensee shall be permitted to perform services requiring a license under K.S.A. 58-3034 et seq., and amendments

branch broker or supervising broker

Senate F I & I Committee

Meeting Date: 03-10-04

Attachment No.: \_\_\_\_

Vinarch 10,2004

