



The Agents' Advocate

Oregon Government Relations News – Professional Insurance Agents of Oregon/Idaho (PIAO/I)
Prepared exclusively for PIAO/I Members by Lana Butterfield, PIAO/I Oregon Lobbyist
June 23, 2006

Construction Claims Task Force To Hear Insurance Issues

The Construction Claims Task Force (CCTF) now begins the first of three meetings dealing with insurance. You are welcome to come and sit in the audience if you like. Here is the agenda for the next meeting on June 28, as well as future meetings. A draft of the insurance study will be released in the next couple of days, and we will forward that as soon as it is available. It should be posted on the website by June 29 or 30. The CCTF website is <http://egov.oregon.gov/DCBS/CCTF/meetings.shtml>.

If your agency writes a significant book of contractors in residential, multifamily, and/or commercial risks and would like to be part of an industry panel on July 26, please let me know and I will submit your name for consideration; this is invited testimony only. A public hearing for anyone who wants to comment will likely be held at the August 23 meeting, although the date of the public hearing is still under discussion. You can submit written testimony at any point.

Next Meeting Agenda:

June 28, 2006, 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Room 260, 2nd Floor of the Labor and Industry Building
350 Winter St NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

Presentation by invited speakers

- A. Regulatory environment – Insurance Division
 - Joel Ario, Administrator, Insurance Division
 - Cece Newell, Property Casualty Technician, Insurance Division
- B. Overview of Insurance – Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
 - David Golden, Director of Commercial Lines
- C. Introduction to insurance study – American Actuarial Consulting Group
 - William T. Flynn, CPA, MBA, Insurance Consultant
 - Joseph W. Pitts, FCAS, MAAA, Consulting Actuary

Insurance Issues: *Current And Future Meetings*

June 28, 2006 (1:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Insurance Overview

- Insurance regulation panel
- Insurance overview presentation
- Introduction to insurance study
- Task force discussion

July 26, 2006 (1:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Insurance Discussion

- Insurance industry panel
- Insurance study report

- Task force discussion

August 23, 2006 (9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

Phase II Wrap-up

- Public comment related to recommendations under consideration
- Task Force discussion regarding findings and recommendations
- Identify Phase II recommendations for drafting

Legislative Report

- September 19, 2006 – Report (1st Draft)
- October 10, 2006 – Report (2nd Draft)
- November 2006 – Report Wrap-up
- January 2007 – Report to Legislature

Credit Score and Health Care Initiatives Still Need Signatures

Bill Sizemore turned in signatures under an early deadline for initiative petition #23 to the Oregon Elections Division. It bans the use of credit score by insurance companies and agents. After its verification process, the Elections Division noted that the "petition contained 50,654 valid signatures, or 65.14% of the 77,758 signatures accepted for verification. Chief petitioners may submit additional signatures not later than 07/07/06." So in other words, it doesn't have enough signatures yet to get on the ballot. We are waiting to see if backers will be successful.

PIAO/I's board of directors at the 2006 annual convention took the position of opposing the credit score ban petition, following the same recommendation by the PIAO/I Oregon Government Relations Committee.

Insurers have formed a working group that is formulating carrier response to the petition.

Initiative #40, which amends the state constitution to require access to health care as a fundamental right and requires the legislature to adopt a plan expanding health care, is also short of signatures. The campaign has lost paid signature gatherer help, and is struggling.

Convention Successful From Government Relations Standpoint

PIAO/I is again grateful to Insurance Commissioner Joel Ario for his comments to us at our annual convention. As usual, Joel brought us very relevant information from the NAIC meeting and current happenings. We also want to thank Carol Simila, Consumer Advocate Liaison from the Oregon Insurance Division, for making herself available at the Government Relations table during exhibition hours.

Senator Ted Ferrioli spoke at the Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday morning, as well as meeting with PIAO/I leaders on Monday evening. He had some very interesting things to say, and urged all PIA members to become involved in the political process as a matter of protecting their business.

Have you contributed to PIA's state political action committee yet? Thanks to all who have done so. If not, we would really appreciate the help in strengthening our association's voice. Make your personal and/or corporate check(s) payable to Professional Insurance Agents of Oregon PAC; send to Sue Smith, Oregon PAC, PIA West, 3205 NE 78th St. Suite 104, Vancouver, WA

98665. Ambassadors Club is \$300 and above; Century Club is \$150-299. You can claim Oregon state income tax credits for personal donations, but donations are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Lana Butterfield, PIAO/I Oregon Lobbyist, lanab@teleport.com
(Office) 503/682-3839 (Fax) 503/682-9201 (Cell) 503/819-5800