

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 5608**

A bill entering into the interstate insurance product regulation compact; and for related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 INTERSTATE INSURANCE PRODUCT REGULATION COMPACT

2 ARTICLE I. PURPOSES

3 The purposes of this compact are, through means of joint and
4 cooperative action among the compacting states:

5 1. To promote and protect the interest of consumers of
6 individual and group annuity, life insurance, disability income,
7 and long-term care insurance products.

8 2. To develop uniform standards for insurance products covered
9 under the compact.

10 3. To establish a central clearinghouse to receive and provide
11 prompt review of insurance products covered under the compact and,

1 in certain cases, advertisements related to those products,
2 submitted by insurers authorized to do business in 1 or more
3 compacting states.

4 4. To give appropriate regulatory approval to those product
5 filings and advertisements satisfying the applicable uniform
6 standard.

7 5. To improve coordination of regulatory resources and
8 expertise between state insurance departments regarding the setting
9 of uniform standards and review of insurance products covered under
10 the compact.

11 6. To create the interstate insurance product regulation
12 commission.

13 7. To perform these and such other related functions as may be
14 consistent with the state regulation of the business of insurance.

15 ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

16 For purposes of this compact:

17 1. "Advertisement" means any material designed to create
18 public interest in a product, or induce the public to purchase,
19 increase, modify, reinstate, borrow on, surrender, replace, or
20 retain a policy, as more specifically defined in the rules and
21 operating procedures of the commission.

22 2. "Bylaws" means those bylaws established by the commission
23 for its governance or for directing or controlling the commission's
24 actions or conduct.

25 3. "Compacting state" means any state which has enacted this
26 compact legislation and which has not withdrawn pursuant to article
27 XIV, section 1 of this compact, or been terminated pursuant to

1 article XIV, section 2 of this compact.

2 4. "Commission" means the "interstate insurance product
3 regulation commission" established by this compact.

4 5. "Commissioner" means the chief insurance regulatory
5 official of a state, including, but not limited to, commissioner,
6 superintendent, director, or administrator.

7 6. "Domiciliary state" means the state in which an insurer is
8 incorporated or organized or, in the case of an alien insurer, its
9 state of entry.

10 7. "Insurer" means any entity licensed by a state to issue
11 contracts of insurance for any of the lines of insurance covered by
12 this compact.

13 8. "Member" means the commissioner, or his or her designee.

14 9. "Non-compacting state" means any state that is not at the
15 time a compacting state.

16 10. "Operating procedures" means procedures promulgated by the
17 commission implementing a rule, uniform standard, or a provision of
18 this compact.

19 11. "Product" means the form of a policy or contract,
20 including any application, endorsement, or related form that is
21 attached to and made a part of the policy or contract, and any
22 evidence of coverage or certificate, for an individual or group
23 annuity, life insurance, disability income, or long-term care
24 insurance product that an insurer is authorized to issue.

25 12. "Rule" means a statement of general or particular
26 applicability and future effect promulgated by the commission,
27 including a uniform standard developed pursuant to article VII of

1 this compact, designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or
2 policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice
3 requirements of the commission, which shall have the force and
4 effect of law in the compacting states.

5 13. "State" means any state, district, or territory of the
6 United States of America.

7 14. "Third-party filer" means an entity that submits a product
8 filing to the commission on behalf of an insurer.

9 15. "Uniform standard" means a standard adopted by the
10 commission for a product line, pursuant to article VII of this
11 compact, and shall include all of the product requirements in
12 aggregate; provided, that each uniform standard shall be construed,
13 whether express or implied, to prohibit the use of any
14 inconsistent, misleading, or ambiguous provisions in a product and
15 the form of the product made available to the public shall not be
16 unfair, inequitable, or against public policy as determined by the
17 commission.

18 ARTICLE III. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION AND VENUE

19 1. The compacting states hereby create and establish a joint
20 public agency known as the "interstate insurance product regulation
21 commission". Pursuant to article IV of this compact, the commission
22 will have the power to develop uniform standards for product lines,
23 receive and provide prompt review of filed products, and give
24 approval to those product filings satisfying applicable uniform
25 standards; provided, it is not intended for the commission to be
26 the exclusive entity for receipt and review of insurance product
27 filings. This compact does not prohibit any insurer from filing its

1 product in any state wherein the insurer is licensed to conduct the
2 business of insurance, and any such filing shall be subject to the
3 laws of the state where filed.

4 2. The commission is a body corporate and politic and an
5 instrumentality of the compacting states.

6 3. The commission is solely responsible for its liabilities
7 except as otherwise specifically provided in this compact.

8 4. Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the
9 commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of
10 competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission
11 is located.

12 ARTICLE IV. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

13 The commission shall have the following powers:

14 1. To promulgate rules, pursuant to article VII of this
15 compact, which shall have the force and effect of law and shall be
16 binding in the compacting states to the extent and in the manner
17 provided in this compact.

18 2. To exercise its rule-making authority and establish
19 reasonable uniform standards for products covered under the
20 compact, and advertisement related to those products, which shall
21 have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in the
22 compacting states, but only for those products filed with the
23 commission, provided, that a compacting state shall have the right
24 to opt out of such uniform standard pursuant to article VII of this
25 compact, to the extent and in the manner provided in this compact,
26 and, provided further, that any uniform standard established by the
27 commission for long-term care insurance products may provide the

1 same or greater protections for consumers as, but shall not provide
2 less than, those protections set forth in the national association
3 of insurance commissioners' long-term care insurance model act and
4 long-term care insurance model regulation, respectively, adopted as
5 of 2001. The commission shall consider whether any subsequent
6 amendments to the national association of insurance commissioners'
7 long-term care insurance model act or long-term care insurance
8 model regulation adopted by the national association of insurance
9 commissioners require amending of the uniform standards established
10 by the commission for long-term care insurance products.

11 3. To receive and review in an expeditious manner products
12 filed with the commission, and rate filings for disability income
13 and long-term care insurance products, and give approval of those
14 products and rate filings that satisfy the applicable uniform
15 standard, where such approval shall have the force and effect of
16 law and be binding on the compacting states to the extent and in
17 the manner provided in the compact.

18 4. To receive and review in an expeditious manner
19 advertisement relating to long-term care insurance products for
20 which uniform standards have been adopted by the commission, and
21 give approval to all advertisement that satisfies the applicable
22 uniform standard. For any product covered under this compact, other
23 than long-term care insurance products, the commission shall have
24 the authority to require an insurer to submit all or any part of
25 its advertisement with respect to that product for review or
26 approval prior to use, if the commission determines that the nature
27 of the product is such that an advertisement of the product could

1 have the capacity or tendency to mislead the public. The actions of
2 the commission as provided in this section shall have the force and
3 effect of law and shall be binding in the compacting states to the
4 extent and in the manner provided in the compact.

5 5. To exercise its rule-making authority and designate
6 products and advertisement that may be subject to a self-
7 certification process without the need for prior approval by the
8 commission.

9 6. To promulgate operating procedures, pursuant to article VII
10 of this compact, which shall be binding in the compacting states to
11 the extent and in the manner provided in this compact.

12 7. To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in its
13 name as the commission; provided, that the standing of any state
14 insurance department to sue or be sued under applicable law shall
15 not be affected.

16 8. To issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony
17 of witnesses and the production of evidence.

18 9. To establish and maintain offices.

19 10. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

20 11. To borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel,
21 including, but not limited to, employees of a compacting state.

22 12. To hire employees, professionals, or specialists, and
23 elect or appoint officers, and to fix their compensation, define
24 their duties, and give them appropriate authority to carry out the
25 purposes of the compact, and determine their qualifications, and to
26 establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating
27 to, among other things, conflicts of interest, rates of

1 compensation, and qualifications of personnel.

2 13. To accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of
3 money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and to
4 receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all
5 times the commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of
6 impropriety.

7 14. To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations
8 of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use, any property, real,
9 personal, or mixed; provided that at all times the commission shall
10 strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

11 15. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,
12 abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal, or
13 mixed.

14 16. To remit filing fees to compacting states as may be set
15 forth in the bylaws, rules, or operating procedures.

16 17. To enforce compliance by compacting states with rules,
17 uniform standards, operating procedures, and bylaws.

18 18. To provide for dispute resolution among compacting states.

19 19. To advise compacting states on issues relating to insurers
20 domiciled or doing business in non-compacting jurisdictions,
21 consistent with the purposes of this compact.

22 20. To provide advice and training to those personnel in state
23 insurance departments responsible for product review and to be a
24 resource for state insurance departments.

25 21. To establish a budget and make expenditures.

26 22. To borrow money.

27 23. To appoint committees, including advisory committees

1 comprising members, state insurance regulators, state legislators
2 or their representatives, insurance industry and consumer
3 representatives, and such other interested persons as may be
4 designated in the bylaws.

5 24. To provide and receive information from, and to cooperate
6 with, law enforcement agencies.

7 25. To adopt and use a corporate seal.

8 26. To perform such other functions as may be necessary or
9 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact consistent with
10 the state regulation of the business of insurance.

11 ARTICLE V. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION

12 1. Membership, Voting, and Bylaws

13 a. Each compacting state shall have and be limited to 1
14 member. Each member shall be qualified to serve in that capacity
15 pursuant to applicable law of the compacting state. Any member may
16 be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the
17 state from which he or she shall be appointed. Any vacancy
18 occurring in the commission shall be filled in accordance with the
19 laws of the compacting state where the vacancy exists. Nothing in
20 this compact shall be construed to affect the manner in which a
21 compacting state determines the election or appointment and
22 qualification of its own commissioner.

23 b. Each member shall be entitled to 1 vote and shall have an
24 opportunity to participate in the governance of the commission in
25 accordance with the bylaws. Notwithstanding any provision in this
26 compact to the contrary, no action of the commission with respect
27 to the promulgation of a uniform standard shall be effective unless

1 2/3 of the members vote in favor of it.

2 c. The commission shall, by a majority of the members,
3 prescribe bylaws to govern its conduct as may be necessary or
4 appropriate to carry out the purposes, and exercise the powers, of
5 the compact, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

6 i. Establishing the fiscal year of the commission.

7 ii. Providing reasonable procedures for appointing and
8 electing members, as well as holding meetings, of the management
9 committee.

10 iii. Providing reasonable standards and procedures: for the
11 establishment and meetings of other committees, and governing any
12 general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the
13 commission.

14 iv. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting
15 meetings of the commission that consist of a majority of commission
16 members, ensuring reasonable advance notice of each such meeting,
17 and providing for the right of citizens to attend each such meeting
18 with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's
19 interest, the privacy of individuals, and insurers' proprietary
20 information, including trade secrets. The commission may meet in
21 camera only after a majority of the entire membership votes to
22 close a meeting en toto or in part. As soon as practicable, the
23 commission must make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting
24 revealing the vote of each member with no proxy votes allowed and
25 votes taken during such meeting.

26 v. Establishing the titles, duties, and authority and
27 reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of the

1 commission.

2 vi. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the
3 establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the
4 commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws
5 of any compacting state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the
6 personnel policies and programs of the commission.

7 vii. Promulgating a code of ethics to address permissible and
8 prohibited activities of commission members and employees.

9 viii. Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of
10 the commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus funds
11 that may exist after the termination of the compact after the
12 payment and/or reserving of all of its debts and obligations.

13 d. The commission shall publish its bylaws in a convenient
14 form and file a copy of the bylaws and a copy of any amendment to
15 the bylaws with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the
16 compacting states.

17 2. Management Committee, Officers, and Personnel

18 a. A management committee comprising no more than 14 members
19 shall be established as follows:

20 i. One member from each of the 6 compacting states with the
21 largest premium volume for individual and group annuities, life,
22 disability income, and long-term care insurance products,
23 determined from the records of the national association of
24 insurance commissioners for the prior year.

25 ii. Four members from those compacting states with at least 2%
26 of the market based on the premium volume described above, other
27 than the 6 compacting states with the largest premium volume,

1 selected on a rotating basis as provided in the bylaws.

2 iii. Four members from those compacting states with less than
3 2% of the market, based on the premium volume described above, with
4 1 selected from each of the 4 zone regions of the national
5 association of insurance commissioners as provided in the bylaws.

6 b. The management committee shall have such authority and
7 duties as may be set forth in the bylaws, including, but not
8 limited to:

9 i. Managing the affairs of the commission in a manner
10 consistent with the bylaws and purposes of the commission.

11 ii. Establishing and overseeing an organizational structure
12 within, and appropriate procedures for, the commission to provide
13 for the creation of uniform standards and other rules, receipt and
14 review of product filings, administrative and technical support
15 functions, review of decisions regarding the disapproval of a
16 product filing, and the review of elections made by a compacting
17 state to opt out of a uniform standard; provided that a uniform
18 standard shall not be submitted to the compacting states for
19 adoption unless approved by 2/3 of the members of the management
20 committee.

21 iii. Overseeing the offices of the commission.

22 iv. Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications
23 and activities with other state, federal, and local government
24 organizations in order to advance the goals of the commission.

25 c. The commission shall elect annually officers from the
26 management committee, with each having such authority and duties,
27 as may be specified in the bylaws.

1 d. The management committee may, subject to the approval of
2 the commission, appoint or retain an executive director for such
3 period, upon such terms and conditions, and for such compensation
4 as the commission may deem appropriate. The executive director
5 shall serve as secretary to the commission, but shall not be a
6 member of the commission. The executive director shall hire and
7 supervise such other staff as may be authorized by the commission.

8 3. Legislative and Advisory Committees

9 a. A legislative committee comprising state legislators or
10 their designees shall be established to monitor the operations of,
11 and make recommendations to, the commission, including the
12 management committee; provided that the manner of selection and
13 term of any legislative committee member shall be as set forth in
14 the bylaws. Prior to the adoption by the commission of any uniform
15 standard, revision to the bylaws, annual budget, or other
16 significant matter as may be provided in the bylaws, the management
17 committee shall consult with and report to the legislative
18 committee.

19 b. The commission shall establish 2 advisory committees, 1 of
20 which shall comprise consumer representatives independent of the
21 insurance industry and the other comprising insurance industry
22 representatives.

23 c. The commission may establish additional advisory committees
24 as its bylaws may provide for the carrying out of its functions.

25 4. Corporate Records of the Commission

26 The commission shall maintain its corporate books and records
27 in accordance with the bylaws.

1 5. Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification

2 a. The members, officers, executive director, employees, and
3 representatives of the commission shall be immune from suit and
4 liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any
5 claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other
6 civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged
7 act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against
8 whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing
9 occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or
10 responsibilities; provided, that nothing in this paragraph shall be
11 construed to protect any such person from suit and/or liability for
12 any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or
13 willful and wanton misconduct of that person.

14 b. The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive
15 director, employee, or representative of the commission in any
16 civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual
17 or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope
18 of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the
19 person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for
20 believing occurred within the scope of commission employment,
21 duties, or responsibilities; provided, that nothing in this compact
22 shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or
23 her own counsel; and provided further, that the actual or alleged
24 act, error, or omission did not result from that person's
25 intentional or willful and wanton misconduct.

26 c. The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any
27 member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of

1 the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment
2 obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged
3 act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of
4 commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such
5 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the
6 scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities,
7 provided, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did
8 not result from the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of
9 that person.

10 ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS AND ACTS OF THE COMMISSION

11 1. The commission shall meet and take such actions as are
12 consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws.

13 2. Each member of the commission shall have the right and
14 power to cast a vote to which that compacting state is entitled and
15 to participate in the business and affairs of the commission. A
16 member shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in
17 the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for members' participation in
18 meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

19 3. The commission shall meet at least once during each
20 calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in
21 the bylaws.

22 ARTICLE VII. RULES & OPERATING PROCEDURES: RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF
23 THE COMMISSION AND OPTING OUT OF UNIFORM STANDARDS

24 1. Rulemaking authority. The commission shall promulgate
25 reasonable rules, including uniform standards, and operating
26 procedures in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the
27 purposes of this compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the

1 event the commission exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner
2 that is beyond the scope of the purposes of this compact, or the
3 powers granted under this compact, then such an action by the
4 commission shall be invalid and have no force and effect.

5 2. Rulemaking procedure. Rules and operating procedures shall
6 be made pursuant to a rulemaking process that conforms to the model
7 state administrative procedure act of 1981 as amended, as may be
8 appropriate to the operations of the commission. Before the
9 commission adopts a uniform standard, the commission shall give
10 written notice to the relevant state legislative committees in each
11 compacting state responsible for insurance issues of its intention
12 to adopt the uniform standard. The commission in adopting a uniform
13 standard shall consider fully all submitted materials and issue a
14 concise explanation of its decision.

15 3. Effective date and opt out of a uniform standard. A uniform
16 standard shall become effective 90 days after its promulgation by
17 the commission or such later date as the commission may determine;
18 provided, however, that a compacting state may opt out of a uniform
19 standard as provided in this article. "Opt out" shall be defined as
20 any action by a compacting state to decline to adopt or participate
21 in a promulgated uniform standard. All other rules and operating
22 procedures, and amendments to those rules and operating procedures,
23 shall become effective as of the date specified in each rule,
24 operating procedure, or amendment.

25 4. Opt out procedure. A compacting state may opt out of a
26 uniform standard, either by legislation or regulation duly
27 promulgated by the insurance department under the compacting

1 state's administrative procedure act. If a compacting state elects
2 to opt out of a uniform standard by regulation, it must give
3 written notice to the commission no later than 10 business days
4 after the uniform standard is promulgated, or at the time the state
5 becomes a compacting state, and find that the uniform standard does
6 not provide reasonable protections to the citizens of the state,
7 given the conditions in the state. The commissioner shall make
8 specific findings of fact and conclusions of law, based on a
9 preponderance of the evidence, detailing the conditions in the
10 state that warrant a departure from the uniform standard and
11 determining that the uniform standard would not reasonably protect
12 the citizens of the state. The commissioner must consider and
13 balance the following factors and find that the conditions in the
14 state and needs of the citizens of the state outweigh the intent of
15 the legislature to participate in, and the benefits of, an
16 interstate agreement to establish national uniform consumer
17 protections for the products subject to this compact and the
18 presumption that a uniform standard adopted by the commission
19 provides reasonable protections to consumers of the relevant
20 product.

21 Notwithstanding the foregoing, a compacting state may, at the
22 time of its enactment of this compact, prospectively opt out of all
23 uniform standards involving long-term care insurance products by
24 expressly providing for such opt out in the enacted compact, and
25 such an opt out shall not be treated as a material variance in the
26 offer or acceptance of any state to participate in this compact.
27 Such an opt out shall be effective at the time of enactment of this

1 compact by the compacting state and shall apply to all existing
2 uniform standards involving long-term care insurance products and
3 those subsequently promulgated.

4 5. Effect of opt out. If a compacting state elects to opt out
5 of a uniform standard, the uniform standard shall remain applicable
6 in the compacting state electing to opt out until such time the opt
7 out legislation is enacted into law or the regulation opting out
8 becomes effective.

9 Once the opt out of a uniform standard by a compacting state
10 becomes effective as provided under the laws of that state, the
11 uniform standard shall have no further force and effect in that
12 state unless and until the legislation or regulation implementing
13 the opt out is repealed or otherwise becomes ineffective under the
14 laws of the state. If a compacting state opts out of a uniform
15 standard after the uniform standard has been made effective in that
16 state, the opt out shall have the same prospective effect as
17 provided under article XIV of this compact for withdrawals.

18 6. Stay of uniform standard. If a compacting state has
19 formally initiated the process of opting out of a uniform standard
20 by regulation, and while the regulatory opt out is pending, the
21 compacting state may petition the commission, at least 15 days
22 before the effective date of the uniform standard, to stay the
23 effectiveness of the uniform standard in that state. The commission
24 may grant a stay if it determines the regulatory opt out is being
25 pursued in a reasonable manner and there is a likelihood of
26 success. If a stay is granted or extended by the commission, the
27 stay or extension may postpone the effective date by up to 90 days,

1 unless affirmatively extended by the commission; provided, a stay
2 may not be permitted to remain in effect for more than 1 year
3 unless the compacting state can show extraordinary circumstances
4 that warrant a continuance of the stay, including, but not limited
5 to, the existence of a legal challenge that prevents the compacting
6 state from opting out. A stay may be terminated by the commission
7 upon notice that the rulemaking process has been terminated.

8 7. Not later than 30 days after a rule or operating procedure
9 is promulgated, any person may file a petition for judicial review
10 of the rule or operating procedure; provided, that the filing of
11 such a petition shall not stay or otherwise prevent the rule or
12 operating procedure from becoming effective unless the court finds
13 that the petitioner has a substantial likelihood of success. The
14 court shall give deference to the actions of the commission
15 consistent with applicable law and shall not find the rule or
16 operating procedure to be unlawful if the rule or operating
17 procedure represents a reasonable exercise of the commission's
18 authority.

19 ARTICLE VIII. COMMISSION RECORDS AND ENFORCEMENT

20 1. The commission shall promulgate rules establishing
21 conditions and procedures for public inspection and copying of its
22 information and official records, except such information and
23 records involving the privacy of individuals and insurers' trade
24 secrets. The commission may promulgate additional rules under which
25 it may make available to federal and state agencies, including law
26 enforcement agencies, records and information otherwise exempt from
27 disclosure, and may enter into agreements with such agencies to

1 receive or exchange information or records subject to nondisclosure
2 and confidentiality provisions.

3 2. Except as to privileged records, data, and information, the
4 laws of any compacting state pertaining to confidentiality or
5 nondisclosure shall not relieve any compacting state commissioner
6 of the duty to disclose any relevant records, data, or information
7 to the commission; provided, that disclosure to the commission
8 shall not be deemed to waive or otherwise affect any
9 confidentiality requirement; and further provided, that, except as
10 otherwise expressly provided in this compact, the commission shall
11 not be subject to the compacting state's laws pertaining to
12 confidentiality and nondisclosure with respect to records, data,
13 and information in its possession. Confidential information of the
14 commission shall remain confidential after such information is
15 provided to any commissioner.

16 3. The commission shall monitor compacting states for
17 compliance with duly adopted bylaws, rules, including uniform
18 standards, and operating procedures. The commission shall notify
19 any non-complying compacting state in writing of its noncompliance
20 with commission bylaws, rules, or operating procedures. If a non-
21 complying compacting state fails to remedy its noncompliance within
22 the time specified in the notice of noncompliance, the compacting
23 state shall be deemed to be in default as set forth in article XIV
24 of this compact.

25 4. The commissioner of any state in which an insurer is
26 authorized to do business, or is conducting the business of
27 insurance, shall continue to exercise his or her authority to

1 oversee the market regulation of the activities of the insurer in
2 accordance with the provisions of the state's law. The
3 commissioner's enforcement of compliance with the compact is
4 governed by the following provisions:

5 a. With respect to the commissioner's market regulation of a
6 product or advertisement that is approved or certified to the
7 commission, the content of the product or advertisement shall not
8 constitute a violation of the provisions, standards, or
9 requirements of the compact except upon a final order of the
10 commission, issued at the request of a commissioner after prior
11 notice to the insurer and an opportunity for hearing before the
12 commission.

13 b. Before a commissioner may bring an action for violation of
14 any provision, standard, or requirement of the compact relating to
15 the content of an advertisement not approved or certified to the
16 commission, the commission, or an authorized commission officer or
17 employee, must authorize the action. However, authorization
18 pursuant to this paragraph does not require notice to the insurer,
19 opportunity for hearing, or disclosure of requests for
20 authorization or records of the commission's action on such
21 requests.

22 ARTICLE IX. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

23 The commission shall attempt, upon the request of a member, to
24 resolve any disputes or other issues that are subject to this
25 compact and that may arise between 2 or more compacting states, or
26 between compacting states and non-compacting states, and the
27 commission shall promulgate an operating procedure providing for

1 resolution of such disputes.

2 ARTICLE X. PRODUCT FILING AND APPROVAL

3 1. Insurers and third-party filers seeking to have a product
4 approved by the commission shall file the product with, and pay
5 applicable filing fees to, the commission. Nothing in this compact
6 shall be construed to restrict or otherwise prevent an insurer from
7 filing its product with the insurance department in any state where
8 the insurer is licensed to conduct the business of insurance, and
9 such filing shall be subject to the laws of the states where filed.

10 2. The commission shall establish appropriate filing and
11 review processes and procedures pursuant to commission rules and
12 operating procedures. Notwithstanding any provision in this compact
13 to the contrary, the commission shall promulgate rules to establish
14 conditions and procedures under which the commission will provide
15 public access to product filing information. In establishing such
16 rules, the commission shall consider the interests of the public in
17 having access to such information, as well as protection of
18 personal medical and financial information and trade secrets, that
19 may be contained in a product filing or supporting information.

20 3. Any product approved by the commission may be sold or
21 otherwise issued in those compacting states for which the insurer
22 is legally authorized to do business.

23 ARTICLE XI. REVIEW OF COMMISSION DECISIONS REGARDING FILINGS

24 1. Not later than 30 days after the commission has given
25 notice of a disapproved product or advertisement filed with the
26 commission, the insurer or third party filer whose filing was
27 disapproved may appeal the determination to a review panel

1 appointed by the commission. The commission shall promulgate rules
2 to establish procedures for appointing such review panels and
3 provide for notice and hearing. An allegation that the commission,
4 in disapproving a product or advertisement filed with the
5 commission, acted arbitrarily, capriciously, or in a manner that is
6 an abuse of discretion or otherwise not in accordance with the law,
7 is subject to judicial review in accordance with article III,
8 section 4.

9 2. The commission shall have authority to monitor, review, and
10 reconsider products and advertisement subsequent to their filing or
11 approval upon a finding that the product does not meet the relevant
12 uniform standard. Where appropriate, the commission may withdraw or
13 modify its approval after proper notice and hearing, subject to the
14 appeal process in section 1 above.

15 ARTICLE XII. FINANCE

16 1. The commission shall pay or provide for the payment of the
17 reasonable expenses of its establishment and organization. To fund
18 the cost of its initial operations, the commission may accept
19 contributions and other forms of funding from the national
20 association of insurance commissioners, compacting states, and
21 other sources. Contributions and other forms of funding from other
22 sources shall be of such a nature that the independence of the
23 commission concerning the performance of its duties shall not be
24 compromised.

25 2. The commission shall collect a filing fee from each insurer
26 and third party filer filing a product with the commission to cover
27 the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its

1 staff in a total amount sufficient to cover the commission's annual
2 budget.

3 3. The commission's budget for a fiscal year shall not be
4 approved until it has been subject to notice and comment as set
5 forth in article VII of this compact.

6 4. The commission shall be exempt from all taxation in and by
7 the compacting states.

8 5. The commission shall not pledge the credit of any
9 compacting state, except by and with the appropriate legal
10 authority of that compacting state.

11 6. The commission shall keep complete and accurate accounts of
12 all its internal receipts, including grants and donations, and
13 disbursements of all funds under its control. The internal
14 financial accounts of the commission shall be subject to the
15 accounting procedures established under its bylaws. The financial
16 accounts and reports, including the system of internal controls and
17 procedures of the commission, shall be audited annually by an
18 independent certified public accountant. Upon the determination of
19 the commission, but no less frequently than every 3 years, the
20 review of the independent auditor shall include a management and
21 performance audit of the commission. The commission shall make an
22 annual report to the governor and legislature of the compacting
23 states, which shall include a report of the independent audit. The
24 commission's internal accounts shall not be confidential and such
25 materials may be shared with the commissioner of any compacting
26 state upon request, provided, however, that any work papers related
27 to any internal or independent audit and any information regarding

1 the privacy of individuals and insurers' proprietary information,
2 including trade secrets, shall remain confidential.

3 7. No compacting state shall have any claim to or ownership of
4 any property held by or vested in the commission or to any
5 commission funds held pursuant to the provisions of this compact.

6 ARTICLE XIII. COMPACTING STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND AMENDMENT

7 1. Any state is eligible to become a compacting state.

8 2. The compact shall become effective and binding upon
9 legislative enactment of the compact into law by 2 compacting
10 states; provided, the commission shall become effective for
11 purposes of adopting uniform standards for, reviewing, and giving
12 approval or disapproval of, products filed with the commission that
13 satisfy applicable uniform standards only after 26 states are
14 compacting states or, alternatively, by states representing greater
15 than 40% of the premium volume for life insurance, annuity,
16 disability income, and long-term care insurance products, based on
17 records of the national association of insurance commissioners for
18 the prior year. Thereafter, it shall become effective and binding
19 as to any other compacting state upon enactment of the compact into
20 law by that state.

21 3. Amendments to the compact may be proposed by the commission
22 for enactment by the compacting states. No amendment shall become
23 effective and binding upon the commission and the compacting states
24 unless and until all compacting states enact the amendment into
25 law.

26 ARTICLE XIV. WITHDRAWAL, DEFAULT, AND TERMINATION

27 1. Withdrawal

1 a. Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and
2 remain binding upon each and every compacting state; provided, that
3 a compacting state may withdraw from the compact ("withdrawing
4 state") by enacting a statute specifically repealing the statute
5 that enacted the compact into law.

6 b. The effective date of withdrawal is the effective date of
7 the repealing statute. However, the withdrawal shall not apply to
8 any product filings approved or self-certified, or any
9 advertisement of those products, on the date the repealing statute
10 becomes effective, except by mutual agreement of the commission and
11 the withdrawing state unless the approval is rescinded by the
12 withdrawing state as provided in paragraph e. of this section.

13 c. The commissioner of the withdrawing state shall immediately
14 notify the management committee in writing upon the introduction of
15 legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state.

16 d. The commission shall notify the other compacting states of
17 the introduction of such legislation within 10 days after its
18 receipt of notice of the introduction of withdrawing legislation.

19 e. The withdrawing state is responsible for all obligations,
20 duties, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of
21 withdrawal, including any obligations, the performance of which
22 extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal, except to the
23 extent those obligations may have been released or relinquished by
24 mutual agreement of the commission and the withdrawing state. The
25 commission's approval of products and advertisement prior to the
26 effective date of withdrawal shall continue to be effective and be
27 given full force and effect in the withdrawing state, unless

1 formally rescinded by the withdrawing state in the same manner as
2 provided by the laws of the withdrawing state for the prospective
3 disapproval of products or advertisement previously approved under
4 state law.

5 f. Reinstatement following withdrawal of any compacting state
6 shall occur upon the effective date of the withdrawing state
7 reenacting the compact.

8 2. Default

9 a. If the commission determines that any compacting state has
10 at any time defaulted ("defaulting state") in the performance of
11 any of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, the
12 bylaws, or duly promulgated rules or operating procedures, then,
13 after notice and hearing as set forth in the bylaws, all rights,
14 privileges, and benefits conferred by this compact on the
15 defaulting state shall be suspended from the effective date of
16 default as fixed by the commission. The grounds for default
17 include, but are not limited to, failure of a compacting state to
18 perform its obligations or responsibilities, and any other grounds
19 designated in commission rules. The commission shall immediately
20 notify the defaulting state in writing of the defaulting state's
21 suspension pending a cure of the default. The commission shall
22 stipulate the conditions and the time period within which the
23 defaulting state must cure its default. If the defaulting state
24 fails to cure the default within the time period specified by the
25 commission, the defaulting state shall be terminated from the
26 compact and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this
27 compact shall be terminated from the effective date of termination.

1 b. Product approvals by the commission or product self-
2 certifications, or any advertisement in connection with that
3 product, that are in force on the effective date of termination
4 shall remain in force in the defaulting state in the same manner as
5 if the defaulting state had withdrawn voluntarily pursuant to
6 section 1 of this article.

7 c. Reinstatement following termination of any compacting state
8 requires a reenactment of the compact.

9 3. Dissolution of Compact

10 a. The compact dissolves effective upon the date of the
11 withdrawal or default of the compacting state that reduces
12 membership in the compact to 1 compacting state.

13 b. Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes
14 null and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the
15 business and affairs of the commission shall be wound up and any
16 surplus funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

17 ARTICLE XV. SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

18 1. The provisions of this compact shall be severable; and if
19 any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision is deemed unenforceable,
20 the remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.

21 2. The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed
22 to effectuate its purposes.

23 ARTICLE XVI. BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

24 1. Other Laws

25 a. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of
26 a compacting state, except as provided in paragraph b. of this
27 section.

1 b. For any product approved or certified to the commission,
2 the rules, uniform standards, and any other requirements of the
3 commission shall constitute the exclusive provisions applicable to
4 the content, approval, and certification of such products. For
5 advertisement that is subject to the commission's authority, any
6 rule, uniform standard, or other requirement of the commission that
7 governs the content of the advertisement shall constitute the
8 exclusive provision that a commissioner may apply to the content of
9 the advertisement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no action taken
10 by the commission shall abrogate or restrict the access of any
11 person to state courts, remedies available under state law related
12 to breach of contract, tort, or other laws not specifically
13 directed to the content of the product, state law relating to the
14 construction of insurance contracts, or the authority of the
15 attorney general of the state, including, but not limited to,
16 maintaining any actions or proceedings, as authorized by law.

17 c. All insurance products filed with individual states shall
18 be subject to the laws of those states.

19 2. Binding Effect of This Compact

20 a. All lawful actions of the commission, including all rules
21 and operating procedures promulgated by the commission, are binding
22 upon the compacting states.

23 b. All agreements between the commission and the compacting
24 states are binding in accordance with their terms.

25 c. Upon the request of a party to a conflict over the meaning
26 or interpretation of commission actions, and upon a majority vote
27 of the compacting states, the commission may issue advisory

1 opinions regarding the meaning or interpretation in dispute.

2 d. In the event any provision of this compact exceeds the
3 constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any compacting
4 state, the obligations, duties, powers, or jurisdiction sought to
5 be conferred by that provision upon the commission shall be
6 ineffective as to that compacting state, and those obligations,
7 duties, powers, or jurisdiction shall remain in the compacting
8 state and shall be exercised by the agency to which those
9 obligations, duties, powers, or jurisdiction is delegated by law in
10 effect at the time this compact becomes effective.