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LEGISLATIVE BILL 274

Approved by the Governor, February 19, 1982

Introduced by Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, DeCamp, 40, Chpn.; Schmit, 23; Remmers, 1; Labedz, 5; Fitzgerald, 14; Landis, 46; Haberman, 44; Clark, 47

AN ACT relating to insurance; to provide education requirements for insurance agents, brokers, and consultants; to define terms; and to provide duties for the Director of Insurance. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. The purpose of this act is to establish requirements for continuing education of insurance agents, brokers, and consultants who are licensed in order to maintain and improve the quality of insurance services provided to the public.

Sec. 2. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Licensee shall mean a natural person who is licensed by the department as a resident agent, broker, or consultant;

(2) Director shall mean the Director of Insurance;

(3) Department shall mean the Department of Insurance; and

(4) Two-year period shall mean twenty-four months commencing on April 1 following either the date of licensing or the effective date of this act, whichever is later, and each succeeding twenty-four month period.

Sec. 3. This act shall not apply to the following persons:

(1) Licensees for whom an examination is not required under the laws of this state, except that persons who are excused from the examination under subdivision (1) of section 44-333.01 or 44-333.05 shall not be exempt;

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(2) Licensees who sell or consult only in the areas of credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance;

(3) Any agent of a hospital service corporation licensed under section 21-1513 who (a) is licensed only as an agent of such corporation, (b) receives no commission or other compensation from such corporation, and (c) is not authorized to accept applications on behalf of such corporation; and

(4) Licensees holding such limited or restricted licenses as the director may exempt.

Sec. 4. In each two-year period, every licensee shall furnish evidence to the director that he or she has satisfactorily completed six hours of approved continuing education activities for each line of insurance in which he or she is licensed as a resident agent or broker, except that no licensee shall be required to complete more than twenty-four cumulative hours in any two-year period. Licensees who are neither agents nor brokers shall be required to complete twenty-four hours of continuing education activities in each two-year period. Evidence of completion for the current two-year period shall be retained by each licensee and submitted to the department when the requirements of this section have been met.

Sec. 5. (1) The director shall certify as approved continuing education activities those courses, lectures, seminars, or other instructional programs which he or she determines would be beneficial in improving the product knowledge or service capability of licensees. The director may require descriptive information about any continuing education activity and refuse approval of any continuing education activity that does not advance the purposes of this act.

(2) The director shall certify the number of hours to be awarded for participation in an approved continuing education activity, based upon contact or classroom hours.

(3) The director shall certify the number of hours to be awarded for successful completion of a correspondence course or program of independent study, based upon the number of hours which would be awarded in an equivalent classroom course or program.

Sec. 6. The director may convene an advisory council of representatives of the insurance industry to consult with him or her on the approval and certification

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of continuing education activities.

Sec. 7. (1) For good cause shown, the director may grant an extension of time during which the requirements imposed by this act may be completed, but such extension of time shall not exceed the period of one year.

(2) The director shall not renew a license nor issue a new license to any licensee who has failed to comply with the requirements set forth in this act.

Sec. 8. The director shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary for the effective administration of this act pursuant to Chapter 84, article 9.