
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1565

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By House Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored by Representatives Kirby, Kelley, Williams, and Simpson; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to business continuity plans for domestic insurers;
2 amending RCW 48.07.160, 48.07.170, 48.07.180, 48.07.190, and 48.07.200;
3 adding new sections to chapter 48.07 RCW; and providing an effective
4 date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.07.160 and 1963 c 195 s 25 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 It is desirable for the general welfare and in particular for the
9 welfare of insurance beneficiaries, policyholders, claimants,
10 subscribers, and others that the business of domestic insurers be
11 continued notwithstanding the event of a local, state, or national
12 emergency. The purpose of this section ~~((and))~~, RCW 48.07.170 through
13 48.07.200, and section 6 of this act is to facilitate the continued
14 operation of domestic insurers in the event that a local, state, or
15 national emergency is ~~((caused by an attack on the United States which
16 is))~~ so disruptive of normal business and commerce ~~((in this state))~~ as
17 to make it impossible or impracticable for a domestic insurer to
18 conduct its business in accord with applicable provisions of law, its
19 bylaws, or its charter. When used in this section ~~((and))~~, RCW

1 48.07.170 through 48.07.200, and section 6 of this act the word
2 "insurer" (~~((includes a fraternal benefit society))~~) means the same as
3 defined in RCW 48.01.053.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 48.07.170 and 1963 c 195 s 26 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The board of directors of any domestic insurer may at any time
7 adopt emergency bylaws, subject to repeal or change by action of those
8 having power to adopt regular bylaws for such insurer, which shall be
9 operative during such a local, state, or national emergency and which
10 may, notwithstanding any different provisions of the regular bylaws, or
11 of the applicable statutes, or of such insurer's charter, make any
12 provision that may be reasonably necessary for the operation of such
13 insurer during the period of such emergency.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 48.07.180 and 1963 c 195 s 27 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 In the event that the board of directors of a domestic insurer has
17 not adopted emergency bylaws, the following provisions shall become
18 effective upon the occurrence of such a local, state, or national
19 emergency as (~~(above)~~) described in this chapter:

20 (1) Three directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
21 of business at all meetings of the board.

22 (2) Any vacancy in the board may be filled by a majority of the
23 remaining directors, though less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining
24 director.

25 (3) If there are no surviving directors, but at least three vice
26 presidents of such insurer survive, the three vice presidents with the
27 longest term of service shall be the directors and shall possess all of
28 the powers of the previous board of directors and such powers as are
29 granted (~~(herein)~~) in this chapter or by subsequently enacted
30 legislation. By majority vote, such emergency board of directors may
31 elect other directors. If there are not at least three surviving vice
32 presidents, the commissioner or duly designated person exercising the
33 powers of the commissioner shall appoint three persons as directors who
34 shall include any surviving vice presidents and who shall possess all
35 of the powers of the previous board of directors and such powers as are

1 granted (~~herein~~) in this chapter or by subsequently enacted
2 legislation, and these persons by majority vote may elect other
3 directors.

4 **Sec. 4.** RCW 48.07.190 and 1963 c 195 s 28 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 At any time the board of directors of a domestic insurer may, by
7 resolution, provide that in the event of such a local, state, or
8 national emergency and in the event of the death or incapacity of the
9 president, the secretary, or the treasurer of such insurer, such
10 officers, or any of them, shall be succeeded in the office by the
11 person named or described in a succession list adopted by the board of
12 directors. Such list may be on the basis of named persons or position
13 titles, shall establish the order of priority and may prescribe the
14 conditions under which the powers of the office shall be exercised.

15 **Sec. 5.** RCW 48.07.200 and 1963 c 195 s 29 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 At any time the board of directors of a domestic insurer may, by
18 resolution, provide that in the event of such a local, state, or
19 national emergency the principal office and place of business of such
20 insurer shall be at such location as is named or described in the
21 resolution. Such resolution may provide for alternate locations and
22 establish an order of preference.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 48.07 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 Each domestic insurer must create and maintain a written business
26 continuity plan identifying procedures relating to a local, state, or
27 national emergency or significant business disruption.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 48.07 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 After considering relevant standards adopted by the national
31 association of insurance commissioners, other states, and other
32 regulatory authorities that regulate financial institutions, the
33 commissioner shall adopt, by rule, standards for insurers and insurance

1 producers to follow for business continuity planning.

2 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act takes effect January 1, 2011.

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