
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1027

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Business & Financial Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Barkis, Vick, Stanford, Kirby, and Ryu; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

1 AN ACT Relating to surplus line broker licensing; amending RCW
2 48.15.070 and 48.15.073; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 48.15.070 and 2010 c 18 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Any individual while a resident of this state, or any firm,
7 corporation, or other business entity that has in its employ a
8 qualified individual who is a resident of this state and who is
9 authorized to exercise the powers of the firm or corporation, deemed
10 by the commissioner to be competent and trustworthy, and while
11 maintaining an office at a designated location in this state, may be
12 licensed as a surplus line broker in accordance with this section.

13 (1) An applicant and a licensee for a resident surplus line
14 broker license must have and maintain a license from the commissioner
15 as a resident insurance producer with property and casualty lines of
16 authority.

17 (2) Each applicant for a resident surplus line broker's license
18 must pass the required examination and pay the required fee when
19 applying for a license.

20 (3) If a nonresident that is licensed as a resident surplus line
21 broker in another state moves to this state and wishes to become

1 licensed as a resident surplus line broker in this state, then the
2 examination requirement is waived if the application is received by
3 the commissioner within ninety days of the cancellation of the
4 surplus line broker's resident license in the other state.

5 (4) Application to the commissioner for the license must be made
6 on forms furnished by the commissioner. As part of, or in connection
7 with, this application, the applicant must furnish information
8 concerning his or her identity, including fingerprints for submission
9 to the Washington state patrol, the federal bureau of investigation,
10 and any governmental agency or entity authorized to receive this
11 information for a state and national criminal history background
12 check; personal history; experience; business records; purposes; and
13 other pertinent information, as the commissioner may reasonably
14 require. If in the process of verifying fingerprints, business
15 records, or other information, the commissioner's office incurs fees
16 or charges from another governmental agency or from a business firm,
17 the amount of the fees or charges must be paid to the commissioner's
18 office by the applicant.

19 ((+2)) (5) Every resident surplus line broker licensed under
20 this chapter must maintain a bond in favor of the state of Washington
21 in the penal sum of twenty thousand dollars, with authorized
22 corporate sureties approved by the commissioner, conditioned that the
23 licensee will conduct business under the license in accordance with
24 the provisions of this chapter and that the licensee will promptly
25 remit the taxes provided by RCW 48.15.120. The licensee must maintain
26 such bond in force for as long as the license remains in effect.

27 ((+3)) (6) Every resident surplus line broker licensed under
28 this chapter must maintain in force while so licensed a bond in favor
29 of the people of the state of Washington or a named insured such that
30 the people of the state are covered by the bond, executed by an
31 authorized corporate surety approved by the commissioner, in the
32 amount of two thousand five hundred dollars, or five percent of the
33 premiums from placement of coverage with surplus line insurers in the
34 previous calendar year, whichever is greater, but not to exceed one
35 hundred thousand dollars total aggregate liability. The bond may be
36 continuous in form, and total aggregate liability on the bond may be
37 limited to the required amount of the bond. The bond must be
38 contingent on the accounting by the resident surplus line broker to
39 any person requesting the broker to obtain insurance, for moneys or
40 premiums collected in connection therewith. A bond issued in

1 accordance with RCW 48.17.250 or with this subsection will satisfy
2 the requirements of both RCW 48.17.250 and this subsection if the
3 limit of liability is not less than the greater of the requirement of
4 RCW 48.17.250 or the requirement of this subsection.

5 ~~((4))~~ (7) Authorized surplus line brokers of a business entity
6 may meet the requirements of subsection ~~((3))~~ (6) of this section
7 with a bond in the name of the business entity, continuous in form,
8 and in the amount set forth in subsection ~~((3))~~ (6) of this
9 section.

10 ~~((5))~~ (8) Surplus line brokers may meet the requirements of
11 this section with a bond in the name of an association. The
12 association must have been in existence for five years, have common
13 membership, and have been formed for a purpose other than obtaining a
14 bond. An individual surplus line broker remains responsible for
15 assuring that a bond is in effect and is for the correct amount.

16 ~~((6))~~ (9) Members of an association may meet the requirements
17 of subsection ~~((3))~~ (6) of this section with a bond in the name of
18 the association that is continuous in form and in the amounts set
19 forth in subsection ~~((3))~~ (6) of this section for each
20 participating member.

21 ~~((7))~~ (10) The surety may cancel the bond and be released from
22 further liability thereunder upon thirty days' written notice in
23 advance to the principal. The cancellation does not affect any
24 liability incurred or accrued under the bond before the termination
25 of the thirty-day period.

26 ~~((8))~~ (11) Failure to have and maintain the bonds required
27 under subsections ~~((2))~~ (5) and ~~((3))~~ (6) of this section is
28 grounds for revocation of a license under RCW 48.15.140.

29 ~~((9))~~ (12) If a party injured under the terms of the bond
30 required under subsection ~~((3))~~ (6) of this section requests the
31 surplus line broker to provide the name of the surety and the bond
32 number, the surplus line broker must provide the information within
33 three working days after receiving the request.

34 ~~((10))~~ (13) All records relating to the bonds required by this
35 section must be kept available and open to the inspection of the
36 commissioner at any business time.

37 ~~((11))~~ (14) A surplus line broker's license expires if not
38 timely renewed. Surplus line broker licenses are valid for the time
39 period established by the commissioner unless suspended or revoked at
40 an earlier date.

1 ~~((12))~~ (15) Subject to the right of the commissioner to
2 suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any surplus line broker's license
3 as provided in this title, the license may be renewed into another
4 like period by filing with the commissioner by any means acceptable
5 to the commissioner on or before the expiration date a request, by or
6 on behalf of the licensee, for the renewal accompanied by payment of
7 the renewal fee as specified in RCW 48.14.010.

8 ~~((13))~~ (16) If the request and fee for renewal of a surplus
9 line broker's license are filed with the commissioner prior to
10 expiration of the existing license, the licensee may continue to act
11 under the license, unless sooner revoked or suspended, until the
12 issuance of a renewal license, or until the expiration of fifteen
13 days after the commissioner has refused to renew the license and has
14 mailed notification of the refusal to the licensee. If the request
15 and fee for the license are not received by the expiration date, the
16 authority conferred by the license ends on the expiration date.

17 ~~((14))~~ (17) If the request for renewal of a surplus line
18 broker's license and payment of the fee are not received by the
19 commissioner prior to the expiration date, the applicant for renewal
20 must pay to the commissioner in addition to the renewal fee, a
21 surcharge as follows:

22 (a) For the first thirty days or part thereof of delinquency, the
23 surcharge is fifty percent of the renewal fee; and

24 (b) For the next thirty days or part thereof of delinquency, the
25 surcharge is one hundred percent of the renewal fee.

26 ~~((15))~~ (18) If the request for renewal of a surplus line
27 broker's license and payment of the renewal fee are not received by
28 the commissioner after sixty days but prior to twelve months after
29 the expiration date, the application must be for reinstatement of the
30 license and the applicant for reinstatement must pay to the
31 commissioner the license fee and a surcharge of two hundred percent
32 of the license fee.

33 ~~((16))~~ (19) Subsections ~~((14))~~ (17) and ~~((15))~~ (18) of this
34 section do not exempt any person from any penalty provided by law for
35 transacting business without a valid and subsisting license.

36 ~~((17))~~ (20) An individual surplus line broker who allows his or
37 her license to lapse may, within twelve months after the expiration
38 date, reinstate the same license without the necessity of passing a
39 written examination.

1 ~~((18))~~ (21) For the purposes of this section, a "qualified
2 individual" is a natural person who has met all the requirements that
3 must be met by an individual surplus line broker.

4 ~~((19))~~ (22) The commissioner may require any documents
5 reasonably necessary to verify the information contained in an
6 application and may, from time to time, require any licensed surplus
7 line broker to produce the information called for in an application
8 for license.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 48.15.073 and 2010 c 18 s 2 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) The commissioner may license a nonresident person as a
12 surplus line broker ~~((a person who is otherwise qualified under this
13 code but))~~ who is not a resident of this state ~~((, if by the laws of
14 the state or province of his or her residence or domicile a similar
15 privilege is extended to residents of this state))~~ if the person's
16 resident state issues nonresident surplus line broker licenses to
17 residents of this state on the same basis.

18 (2) A ~~((person under subsection (1) of this section must meet the
19 same qualifications as any other person seeking to be licensed as a
20 surplus line broker under this chapter, except for residency, and is
21 not required to submit fingerprints with the license application for
22 a background check))~~ nonresident that holds a surplus line broker's
23 license, or the equivalent, in the applicant's home state, and that
24 license is in good standing is deemed qualified and meets the minimum
25 standards of this state for licensing as a nonresident surplus line
26 broker. ~~((A person granted))~~

27 (3) Once a person has been issued a nonresident surplus line
28 broker's license by the commissioner, the licensee must fulfill all
29 the same responsibilities as ~~((any other))~~ a resident surplus line
30 broker, except for bonding, and is subject to the (a) commissioner's
31 supervision as though resident in this state and (b) rules adopted
32 under this chapter.

33 ~~((3))~~ (4) A nonresident surplus line broker's license expires
34 if not timely renewed. A nonresident surplus line broker's license is
35 valid for the time period established by the commissioner unless
36 suspended or revoked at an earlier date. The request and fee for the
37 renewal of the license is the same as the renewal and fee
38 requirements for a resident surplus line broker licensed under RCW
39 48.15.070.

1 (~~(4)~~) (5) Each licensed nonresident surplus line broker, by
2 application for and issuance of a license, is deemed to have
3 appointed the commissioner as the surplus line broker's attorney to
4 receive service of legal process issued against the surplus line
5 broker in this state upon causes of action arising within this state.
6 Service upon the commissioner as attorney constitutes effective legal
7 service upon the surplus line broker.

8 (a) The appointment of the commissioner as attorney is
9 irrevocable, binds any successor in interest or to the assets or
10 liabilities of the surplus line broker, and remains in effect for as
11 long as there could be any cause of action against the surplus line
12 broker arising out of the surplus line broker's insurance
13 transactions in this state.

14 (b) Service of legal process must be accomplished and processed
15 in the manner prescribed in RCW 48.02.200.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect January 1, 2018.

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