

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 885

Life Insurance

SPONSOR(S): Tobia

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1364

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee		Reilly	Cooper
2)	Policy Council			
3)	General Government Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

An insurer that sells a life insurance policy that will replace an existing policy owned by a person must send notice of the replacement policy to the current insurer. House Bill 885 provides that an insurer is not required to send notice of replacement of a life insurance policy to the current insurer when the replacement policy is issued by the same insurer or an affiliated insurer of the policy that is to be replaced. Specifically, such notice is not required for transactions involving:

- An application to the current insurer that issued the current policy when a contractual change or conversion privilege is being exercised.
- A current policy is being replaced by the same insurer pursuant to a program approved by the Office of Insurance Regulation.
- A term conversion privilege is being exercised among corporate affiliates.

Under current law, an employee covered by a group life insurance policy may insure their spouse and/or dependent children under the policy for up to 50% of the amount for which the employee is insured. The bill removes this cap, and allows coverage of spouses and dependent children under a group life insurance policy up to the amount for which the employee is insured under the policy.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law and does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Replacement of Life Insurance

An insurer that sells a life insurance policy that will replace an existing policy owned by a person must send notice of the replacement policy to the current insurer, among other responsibilities.¹ The notice is intended to give the current insurer the opportunity to contact the policyholder to discuss the current policy before it is canceled.²

House Bill 885 creates s. 627.4605, F.S. The section provides that an insurer is not required to send notice of replacement life insurance to the current insurer when the replacement policy is issued by the same insurer or an affiliate of the insurer of the policy that is to be replaced. Specifically, notice of replacement life insurance does not need to be sent to the current insurer for transactions involving:

- An application to the current insurer that issued the current policy when a contractual change or conversion privilege is being exercised.
- A current policy is being replaced by the same insurer pursuant to a program approved by the Office of Insurance Regulation.
- A term conversion privilege is being exercised among corporate affiliates.

This section is consistent with model standards adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).³

¹ Rule 69O-151.007, F.A.C., implementing ss. 624.307(1), 626.9521, 626.9541, 626.9641, 626.99, F.S. The insurer is also required to provide certain information to the prospective purchaser of the replacement policy.

² Correspondence between representatives of the life insurance industry (Paul Sanford) and staff of the Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs (IBFA) Policy Committee. On file with the IBFA Policy Committee.

³ National Association of Insurance Commissioners, "Life Insurance and Annuities Replacement Regulation" (July 2006). Available from the NAIC website: <http://www.naic.org>.

Dependent Coverage under Group Life Insurance Policies

Thirty-five states have statutory provisions relating to coverage of spouses and dependent children under group life insurance policies.⁴ Twenty of these states do not specify a coverage limitation;⁵ 12 allow coverage up to the amount for which the employee is insured under the group policy;⁶ and three states, including Florida under s. 627.5575(3), F.S.,⁷ allow coverage of up to 50% of the amount for which the employee is insured under the group life insurance policy. The NAIC model, which was adopted in the 1980s, limits coverage for spouses and dependent children under group life insurance policies to 50% of the amount for which the employee is insured.⁸

The bill removes the 50% cap, and allows spouses and dependent children to be insured under a group life insurance policy up to the amount for which the employee is insured.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 627.4605, F.S., "Replacement notice."

Section 2. Amends s. 627.5575, F.S., "Group life insurance for dependents."

Section 3. Provides for the bill to become effective upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill may make increased coverage available to spouses and dependent children under group life insurance policies.

⁴ See American Council of Life Insurers, "Law Survey: Dependent Caps on Group Life Insurance" (July 2009). A copy of the survey is on file with the IBFA Policy Committee.

⁵ Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Utah.

⁶ Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. New York permits the spouse to be insured for up to 100% of the amount for which the employee is insured under the group life policy, but limits coverage for a dependent child to a maximum of \$25,000.

⁷ Kansas and Nebraska also provide a 50% limitation.

⁸ Correspondence between representatives of the life insurance industry (Paul Sanford) and IBFA Policy Committee staff. On file with the IBFA Policy Committee.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES