

Senate Bill 1591

Sponsored by Senator SHIELDS; Senator BURDICK (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Insurance Regulation with seven members appointed by President of Senate, Speaker of House of Representatives and Governor. Provides that task force shall examine extent to which insurers in this state pay claims in timely fashion, respond to investigative queries from Department of Consumer and Business Services and otherwise promote transparency and responsiveness to claims from persons who have policies with insurers.

Sunsets task force on December 31, 2017.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to insurance; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Insurance Regulation is established.**

5 **(2) The task force consists of seven members appointed as follows:**

6 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint:**

7 **(A) Two members from among members of the Senate.**

8 **(B) One member who is a representative of a large insurer in this state.**

9 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:**

10 **(A) Two members from among members of the House of Representatives.**

11 **(B) One member who is a representative of a small insurer in this state.**

12 **(c) The Governor shall appoint a member who is an insurance consumer and a resident**
13 **of this state.**

14 **(3) The task force shall examine the extent to which insurers in this state pay claims in**
15 **a timely fashion, respond to investigative queries from the Department of Consumer and**
16 **Business Services and otherwise promote transparency and responsiveness to claims from**
17 **persons who have policies with the insurers.**

18 **(4) The task force may conduct studies, receive testimony, interview representatives**
19 **from insurers and insureds, ask for documents and materials, solicit advice and recommen-**
20 **dations and otherwise take any actions necessary to carry out the purposes identified in**
21 **subsection (3) of this section.**

22 **(5) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction**
23 **of business.**

24 **(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members**
25 **of the task force.**

26 **(7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.**

27 **(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-**
28 **ment to become immediately effective.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson**
2 **or of a majority of the members of the task force.**

3 **(10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.**

4 **(11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and**
5 **may include recommendations for legislation, to a committee of the Legislative Assembly**
6 **related to insurance no later than September 15, 2017.**

7 **(12) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall provide staff support to**
8 **the task force.**

9 **(13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not**
10 **entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other**
11 **expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and**
12 **amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for expenses incurred in performing functions**
13 **of the task force shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Consumer and**
14 **Business Services for purposes of the task force.**

15 **(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**
16 **the task force in the performance of the task force's duties and, to the extent permitted by**
17 **laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task**
18 **force consider necessary to perform their duties.**

19 **SECTION 2.** **Section 1 of this 2016 Act is repealed on December 31, 2017.**

20 **SECTION 3.** **This 2016 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
21 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2016 Act takes effect**
22 **on its passage.**