

SB 251 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Updates various statutes in Insurance Code to reflect changes in National Association of Insurance Commissioners model provisions related to reducing reserve requirements for domestic insurers that cede insurance to reinsurers and to regulating insurance adjusters and insurance consultants. Operative January 1, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) administers and enforces the Insurance Code, the statutes that regulate the business of insurance. Current statute requires DCBS to maintain accreditation from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), a standard-setting organization created and governed by the chief insurance regulators from all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. The NAIC accreditation program is designed to establish and maintain standards that promote sound insurance company financial solvency regulation.

Reinsurance allows an insurer to transfer risk to another insurer and is an important mechanism for carriers to manage exposure and financial solvency. The NAIC adopted revisions for its reinsurance standards in 2011 that recently became mandatory for NAIC accreditation. SB 251 revises the Insurance Code to align with these mandatory changes. The measure also makes changes to align with the NAIC licensing standards for insurance adjusters.