

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1611

By: Sullivan of the House

and

Coffee and Coates of the
Senate

An Act relating to workers' compensation insurance; amending 36 O.S. 2001, Section 608, which relates to insurer requirements; establishing licensing requirement for certain adjusters; amending 36 O.S. 2001, Section 6217, as last amended by Section 48, Chapter 176, O.S.L. 2009 (36 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 6217), which relates to continuing education requirements for claims adjusters; requiring certain continuing education for certain adjusters; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2001, Section 608, is amended to read as follows:

Section 608. A. A casualty insurer shall not be authorized to transact workers' compensation insurance in this state without first complying with the applicable provisions of Title 85~~7~~ of the Oklahoma Statutes 1951, as amended.

B. A claims adjuster for any insurer duly authorized to transact workers' compensation insurance in Oklahoma shall be licensed pursuant to the Insurance Adjusters Licensing Act.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2001, Section 6217, as last amended by Section 48, Chapter 176, O.S.L. 2009 (36 O.S. Supp. 2009, Section 6217), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6217. A. All licenses issued pursuant to the provisions of the Insurance Adjusters Licensing Act shall continue in force not longer than twenty-four (24) months. The renewal dates for the licenses may be staggered throughout the year by notifying licensees in writing of the expiration and renewal date being assigned to the licensees by the Insurance Commissioner and by making appropriate adjustments in the biennial licensing fee.

B. Any licensee applying for renewal of a license as an adjuster shall have completed not less than twenty-four (24) clock hours of continuing insurance education, of which three (3) hours must be in ethics, within the previous twenty-four (24) months prior to renewal of the license. Such continuing education shall cover subjects in the classes of insurance for which the adjuster is licensed. The Insurance Commissioner shall approve courses and providers of continuing education for insurance adjusters as required by this section.

The Insurance Department may use one or more of the following to review and provide a nonbinding recommendation to the Insurance Commissioner on approval or disapproval of courses and providers of continuing education:

1. Employees of the Insurance Commissioner;
2. A continuing education advisory committee. The continuing education advisory committee is separate and distinct from the Advisory Board established by Section 6221 of this title;
3. An independent service whose normal business activities include the review and approval of continuing education courses and providers. The Commissioner may negotiate agreements with such independent service to review documents and other materials submitted for approval of courses and providers and present the Commissioner with its nonbinding recommendation. The Commissioner may require such independent service to collect the fee charged by the independent service for reviewing materials provided for review directly from the course providers.

C. An adjuster who, during the time period prior to renewal, participates in an approved professional designation program shall be deemed to have met the biennial requirement for continuing education. Each course in the curriculum for the program shall total a minimum of twenty (20) hours. Each approved professional designation program included in this section shall be reviewed for

quality and compliance every three (3) years in accordance with standardized criteria promulgated by rule. Continuation of approved status is contingent upon the findings of the review. The list of professional designation programs approved under this subsection shall be made available to producers and providers annually.

D. A claims adjuster for any insurer duly authorized to transact workers' compensation insurance shall complete six (6) hours of continuing education relating to the Workers' Compensation Act as part of the twenty-four (24) clock hours of continuing insurance education.

E. The Insurance Department may promulgate rules providing that courses or programs offered by professional associations shall qualify for presumptive continuing education credit approval. The rules shall include standardized criteria for reviewing the professional associations' mission, membership, and other relevant information, and shall provide a procedure for the Department to disallow a presumptively approved course. Professional association courses approved in accordance with this subsection shall be reviewed every three (3) years to determine whether they continue to qualify for continuing education credit.

~~E.~~ F. The active service of a licensed adjuster as a member of a continuing education advisory committee, as described in paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section, shall be deemed to qualify for continuing education credit on an hour-for-hour basis.

~~F.~~ G. Each provider of continuing education shall, after approval by the Commissioner, submit an annual fee. A fee may be assessed for each course submission at the time it is first submitted for review and upon submission for renewal at expiration. Annual fees and course submission fees shall be set forth as a rule by the Commissioner. The fees are payable to the Insurance Commissioner and shall be deposited in the State Insurance Commissioner Revolving Fund, created in subsection C of Section 1435.23 of this title, for the purposes of fulfilling and accomplishing the conditions and purposes of the Oklahoma Producer Licensing Act and the Insurance Adjusters Licensing Act. Public-funded educational institutions, federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, not-for-profit organizations and Oklahoma state agencies shall be exempt from this subsection.

~~G.~~ H. Subject to the right of the Commissioner to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license of an adjuster, any such

license may be renewed by filing on the form prescribed by the Commissioner on or before the expiration date a written request by or on behalf of the licensee for such renewal and proof of completion of the continuing education requirement set forth in subsection B of this section, accompanied by payment of the renewal fee.

~~H.~~ I. If the request, proof of compliance with the continuing education requirement and fee for renewal of a license as an adjuster are filed with the Commissioner prior to the expiration of the existing license, the licensee may continue to act pursuant to said license, unless revoked or suspended prior to the expiration date, until the issuance of a renewal license or until the expiration of ten (10) days after the Commissioner has refused to renew the license and has mailed notice of said refusal to the licensee. Any request for renewal filed after the date of expiration may be considered by the Commissioner as an application for a new license.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

Passed the House of Representatives the 26th day of May, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 26th day of May, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the Senate