Subchapter I. General Provisions Regarding Fees, Applications, and Renewals 28 TAC [§19.803 and] §19.810

Subchapter K. Continuing Education, Adjuster Prelicensing Education Programs, and Certification Courses 28 TAC §19.1004

INTRODUCTION. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) proposes to repeal §19.803 and to amend §19.810 in Subchapter I of 28 TAC Chapter 19 and to amend §19.1004 in Subchapter K of 28 TAC Chapter 19. These sections concern the licensing of insurance professionals. The proposed repeal and amendments implement Senate Bill 422, 88th Legislature, 2023, which amended Occupations Code §§55.004(d), 55.0041, and 55.005(a).

EXPLANATION. Chapter 55 of the Occupations Code provides for alternative licensing procedures and requirements for military service members, military veterans, and military spouses. Before the passage of SB 422, Occupations Code §55.0041 required licensing agencies to recognize the out-of-state licenses of military spouses. SB 422 amended §55.0041 to also apply to military service members and to incorporate additional changes.

As part of the implementation of SB 422, TDI has separately proposed new 28 TAC §1.814, which provides alternative licensing procedures and requirements for license applications by military service members, military veterans, and military spouses, consistent with Occupations Code Chapter 55 and 50 USC §4025a. Proposed new §1.814 applies to all licenses, permits, certifications, and other authorizations issued by TDI, including insurance professional licenses.

The proposed amendments are described in the following paragraphs.

Section 19.803. The proposal repeals §19.803, which provides procedures for licensing of military service members, military veterans, and military spouses, because this section will be superseded by new 28 TAC §1.814.

Section 19.810. The amendments to \$19.810 remove outdated effective date references in subsection (a) and replace cross-references to \$19.803 in subsection (b) with cross-references to new 28 TAC \$1.814. The amendments also correct erroneous cross-references in subsection (f), correct a grammatical error in subsection (h)(1), and insert the titles of cited Insurance Code and Administrative Code provisions in subsections (a), (c)(2), and (h)(1).

Section 19.1004. The amendments to §19.1004 remove subsection (f), which provides for licensing-related exemptions and extensions for military service members. Subsection (f) is superseded by new 28 TAC §1.814. Amendments also update cross-references to subsection (f) and redesignate the subsections that follow subsection (f) to reflect its removal. In addition, amendments insert the titles of cited Insurance Code and Administrative Code provisions in subsection (b) and redesignated subsections (f) and (g).

FISCAL NOTE AND LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENT. Jodie Delgado, director of the Agent and Adjuster Licensing Office, has determined that during each year of the first five years the sections as proposed are in effect, there will be no measurable fiscal impact on state and local governments as a result of enforcing or administering the proposed sections, other than that imposed by the statute. Ms. Delgado made this determination because the sections as proposed do not add to or decrease state revenues or expenditures, and because local governments are not involved in enforcing or complying with the proposed amended sections.

Ms. Delgado does not anticipate any measurable effect on local employment or the local economy as a result of this proposal. **PUBLIC BENEFIT AND COST NOTE.** For each year of the first five years the sections as proposed are in effect, Ms. Delgado expects that administering and enforcing the proposed sections will have the public benefits of updating and eliminating redundant provisions and ensuring that TDI's rules conform to Chapter 55 of the Occupations Code in a consistent way.

Ms. Delgado expects that the sections as proposed will not increase the cost of compliance because the proposed sections do not create or impose any requirements.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS. TDI has

determined that the sections as proposed will not have an adverse economic effect on small or micro businesses, or on rural communities. As a result, and in accordance with Government Code §2006.002(c), TDI is not required to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis.

EXAMINATION OF COSTS UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE §2001.0045. TDI has determined that this proposal does not impose a possible cost on regulated persons. There are no additional costs as a result of this proposal because it only removes existing regulations made redundant by new regulations. No additional rule amendments are required under Government Code §2001.0045.

GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT. TDI has determined that for each year of the first five years that the sections as proposed are in effect, the proposed rule:

- will not create or eliminate a government program;

- will not require the creation of new employee positions or the elimination of existing employee positions;

- will not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations to the agency;

- will not require an increase or decrease in fees paid to the agency;

- will not create a new regulation;

- will limit and repeal existing regulations;
- will not decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability; and
- will not positively or adversely affect the Texas economy.

TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT. TDI has determined that no private real property interests are affected by this proposal and that this proposal does not restrict or limit an owner's right to property that would otherwise exist in the absence of government action. As a result, this proposal does not constitute a taking or require a takings impact assessment under Government Code §2007.043.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. TDI will consider any written comments on the proposal that are received by TDI no later than 5:00 p.m., central time, on January 3, 2024. Send your comments to ChiefClerk@tdi.texas.gov or to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC: GC-CCO, Texas Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 12030, Austin, Texas 78711-2030.

To request a public hearing on the proposal, submit a request before the end of the comment period to ChiefClerk@tdi.texas.gov or to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC: GC-CCO, Texas Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 12030, Austin, Texas 78711-2030. The request for public hearing must be separate from any comments and received by TDI no later than 5:00 p.m., central time, on January 3, 2024. If TDI holds a public hearing, TDI will consider written and oral comments presented at the hearing.

Subchapter I. General Provisions Regarding Fees, Applications, and Renewals. 28 TAC §19.803

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. TDI proposes the repeal of §19.803 under Occupations Code §§55.002, 55.004(a), 55.0041, 55.007, and 55.008 and Insurance Code §§36.109, 4001.005, and 36.001.

Occupations Code §55.002 requires state agencies to adopt rules to exempt certain military service members from increased fees and penalties for failure to timely renew a license.

Occupations Code §55.004(a) requires state agencies to adopt rules for the issuance of a license to certain military service members, military veterans, and military spouses.

Occupations Code §55.0041, which addresses recognition of out-of-state licenses of military service members and military spouses, requires state agencies to adopt rules to implement the section. In addition, Occupations Code §55.0041(f) authorizes state agencies to adopt rules for the issuance of a license to a military service member or military spouse who provides confirmation from TDI of licensure verification and authorization to engage in the business or occupation under Occupations Code §55.0041.

Occupations Code §55.007, which addresses license eligibility requirements for military service members and military veterans, requires state agencies to adopt rules necessary to implement the section.

Occupations Code §55.008, which addresses apprenticeship requirements for certain applicants with military experience, requires state agencies to adopt rules necessary to implement the section.

Insurance Code §36.109, which addresses renewal extension for certain persons performing military service, authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules as necessary to implement the section.

Insurance Code §4001.005 authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules necessary to implement Title 13 of the Insurance Code and to meet minimum requirements of federal law.

Insurance Code §36.001 provides that the commissioner may adopt any rules necessary and appropriate to implement the powers and duties of TDI under the Insurance Code and other laws of this state.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The proposed repeal of §3.3725 implements Occupations Code §§55.002 - 55.009.

TEXT.

§19.803. Military Service Member, Military Veteran, and Military Spouse.

Subchapter I. General Provisions Regarding Fees, Applications, and Renewals 28 TAC §19.810

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. TDI proposes amendments to §19.810 under Occupations Code §§55.002, 55.004(a), and 55.0041 and Insurance Code §§36.109, 4001.005, and 36.001.

Occupations Code §55.002 requires state agencies to adopt rules to exempt certain military service members from increased fees and penalties for failure to timely renew a license.

Occupations Code §55.004(a) requires state agencies to adopt rules for the issuance of a license to certain military service members, military veterans, and military spouses.

Occupations Code §55.0041 which addresses recognition of out-of-state licenses of military service members and military spouses, requires state agencies to adopt rules to implement the section.

Insurance Code §36.109, which addresses renewal extension for certain persons performing military service, authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules as necessary to implement the section.

Insurance Code §4001.005 authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules necessary to implement Title 13 of the Insurance Code and to meet minimum requirements of federal law.

Insurance Code §36.001 provides that the commissioner may adopt any rules necessary and appropriate to implement the powers and duties of TDI under the Insurance Code and other laws of this state.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The proposed amendments to §19.810 implement Occupations Code §§55.002 - 55.004, 55.0041, and 55.006.

TEXT.

§19.810. License Renewal and Application for an Expired License.

(a) Applicability. [This section becomes applicable to licensees and applicants on June 1, 2018. Prior to June 1, 2018, license renewal and reissuances will be processed under the regulations in effect prior to the adoption of this section.] This section applies to the renewal of a license and application for an expired license under Insurance Code Title 13, concerning Regulation of Professionals, that was issued or renewed on or after November 1, 2015.

(b) Conflicts with other sections. To the extent that this section conflicts with <u>§1.814</u> [§19.803] of this title (relating to Military Service Member, Military Veteran, and Military) <u>Spouse</u>) in the application of this section and <u>§1.814</u> [§19.803] to military service members, military veterans, and military spouses, <u>§1.814</u> [§19.803] controls.

(c) Unexpired license. A licensee may apply for renewal of a license that has neither expired nor been suspended or revoked by:

(1) submitting to TDI the required renewal application fee and renewal application; and

(2) completing the applicable continuing education requirement within the reporting period and prior to the expiration of the license, as required under Insurance Code §4004.055, concerning Conduct, Disciplinary Actions, and Sanctions.

(d) Noncompliance with subsection (c) of this section. If the licensee does not comply with subsection (c) of this section, the license will not be renewed and will expire on the expiration date.

(e) Renewal of a license that has been expired for 90 days or less. A licensee may renew a license that has been expired for 90 days or less. The licensee must submit to TDI within 90 days after the license expiration date:

(1) the required renewal application fee;

(2) an additional fee equal to one-half of the required renewal application

fee;

(3) a completed renewal application; and

(4) evidence demonstrating that the licensee has:

(A) completed the applicable continuing education requirement before the license expired; or

(B) completed continuing education after the license expired and paid all applicable fines as required under Insurance Code §4004.055.

(f) Effect of renewal or nonrenewal of expired license. If the licensee completes each item listed in subsection (c) [(d)] of this section for an unexpired license as described,

or completes each item listed in subsection (e) of this section within 90 days after the license expiration date, and the license is renewed, the license will be renewed effective as of the license expiration date. If the licensee fails to complete each item listed in subsection (c) of this section prior to the expiration date, or subsection (e) [(d)] of this section within 90 days after the license expiration date, as applicable, the license cannot be renewed, and the individual cannot engage in the business of insurance in the capacity granted by that license effective as of the license's expiration date and continuing until the individual obtains a new license as provided in subsection (g) or (h) of this section.

(g) License expired for more than 90 days. If an individual's license has been expired for more than 90 days, but less than one year, the individual may apply for the expired license without an examination. The individual must submit to TDI within one year after the date the license expired:

(1) a new original application;

(2) the required application fee;

(3) an additional fee equal to one-half of the required application fee; and;

(4) evidence demonstrating that the licensee has:

(A) completed the applicable continuing education requirement before the license expired; or

(B) completed continuing education after the license expired and paid all applicable fines as required under Insurance Code §4004.055.

(h) License expired for one year or more. If an individual's license has been expired for one year or more, to obtain the expired license the individual must:

(1) complete the requirements for <u>a</u> [an] new license described in §§19.805
19.807 of this title <u>(relating to Application for a New Individual License, Application for a Provisional Permit, and Application for a Temporary License</u>), including reexamination, if applicable; and

(2) for a license that expired, was canceled, revoked, or not renewed on or after November 1, 2015, evidence demonstrating that the licensee:

(A) completed the applicable continuing education requirement before the license expired; or

(B) completed continuing education after the license expired and paid all applicable fines as required under Insurance Code §4004.055.

Subchapter I. Continuing Education, Adjuster Prelicensing Education Programs, and Certification Courses 28 TAC §19.1004

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. TDI proposes amendments to §19.1004 under Occupations Code §§55.002, 55.004(a), and 55.0041 and Insurance Code §§36.109, 4001.005, and 36.001.

Occupations Code §55.002 requires state agencies to adopt rules to exempt certain military service members from increased fees and penalties for failure to timely renew a license.

Occupations Code §55.004(a) requires state agencies to adopt rules for the issuance of a license to certain military service members, military veterans, and military spouses.

Occupations Code §55.0041, which addresses recognition of out-of-state licenses of military service members and military spouses, requires state agencies to adopt rules to implement the section.

Insurance Code §36.109, which addresses renewal extension for certain persons performing military service, authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules as necessary to implement the section.

Insurance Code §4001.005 authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules necessary to implement Title 13 of the Insurance Code and to meet minimum requirements of federal law.

Insurance Code §36.001 provides that the commissioner may adopt any rules necessary and appropriate to implement the powers and duties of TDI under the Insurance Code and other laws of this state.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The proposed amendments to §19.1004 implement Occupations Code §55.003 and Insurance Code §36.109.

TEXT.

§19.1004. Licensee Exemption from and Extension of Time for Continuing Education.

(a) Any exemption or extension granted to a licensee under subsections (b) - (f) [(g)] of this section applies to all license types held by the licensee. Nothing within this subchapter may be construed as preventing TDI from auditing a licensee to confirm the continued existence of circumstances supporting the exemption or extension.

(b) An agent who held a Texas resident license issued under Insurance Code Article 21.07-1, as Group I, legal reserve life insurance agent or general lines life, accident, and health insurance agent; Article 21.07-3, as managing general agent; or Article 21.14, as local recording agent, solicitor, general lines property and casualty agent, or insurance service representative, for at least 20 years or more as of December 31, 2002, is exempt from completing the required number of continuing education hours in §19.1003 of this title (relating to Licensee Hour and Completion Requirements). Agents must confirm that they qualify for this exemption by submitting a written request to TDI indicating that they have met the longevity requirement. TDI or TDI's designee will provide written notice that

an agent qualifies for this exemption. Agents that qualified for the longevity exemption authorized under the Insurance Code prior to September 1, 2001, remain qualified and do not have to reapply for this exemption.

(c) A licensee who on or after January 1, 2003, has been continuously licensed by TDI for at least 20 years is exempt from completing the required number of continuing education hours in §19.1003 of this title. For purposes of this subsection "continuously licensed" means that the licensee has held a TDI issued license for the entire period of time without any lapse in excess of 90 days in which the licensee was not licensed or failed to renew a license. The exemption will apply beginning with the reporting period in which the licensee reaches the 20th year of licensure. TDI or TDI's designee will provide written notice to the licensee that a licensee qualifies for this exemption. Licensees may not claim the exemption prior to receiving written notice that they qualify for the exemption. Licensees may submit a written request to TDI to evaluate their longevity status.

(d) Nonresident licensees, are subject to the following requirements:

(1) A nonresident licensee, including an adjuster with a designated home state adjuster license issued by a state other than Texas, who is in compliance with the licensee's resident state's or adjuster's designated home state's continuing education requirements are not required to complete the continuing education requirement under this subchapter. A licensee may qualify for this exemption based on the following:

(A) the licensee's state of residence, or adjuster's designated home state, claimed in the licensee's original application;

(B) by sending written notification to TDI or its designee stating that the licensee is a resident of another state, or the adjuster has a designated home state other than Texas, with a certificate of good standing; or (C) by sending any other document acceptable to TDI, showing that the licensee has a resident license or an adjuster's designated home state adjuster license in good standing in that state.

(2) A designated home state adjuster licensee who designates Texas as the licensee's home state is not exempt under this subsection and must complete continuing education under the same requirements as a Texas resident adjuster as required under §19.1003(e) of this title.

(e) Licensees who meet the criteria of illness, medical disability, or circumstances beyond the control of the licensee may apply for an exemption or extension of time to complete their continuing education requirement without incurring a fine or a waiver, in whole or in part, of the continuing education requirement. Business reasons do not constitute circumstances beyond the control of the licensee. TDI will establish the duration of the extension when it is granted. If the circumstances supporting the extension continue beyond the granted extension period, the licensee may reapply for an exemption or extension. The licensee's application must include the information set forth in paragraphs (1) - (6) of this subsection:

(1) a written statement of the exact nature of the illness, medical disability or other extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the licensee that have prevented or will prevent the licensee from completing the required hours within the reporting period;

(2) evidence regarding the illness or medical disability of the licensee and circumstances beyond the control of the licensee;

(3) a written assessment of whether the condition is temporary, permanent, or unknown;

(4) a written statement as to whether the licensee will be able to perform activities including any acts of an agent or adjuster during the exemption or extension period being requested;

(5) the estimated date when the licensee will be able to perform any activities including any acts of an agent or adjuster in accordance with the medical reports or other documents pertaining to circumstances beyond the control of the licensee; and

(6) any other information that may be of assistance in evaluating the request.

[(f) A military service member may request an exemption or extension as follows:]

[(1) a military service member is entitled to two additional years to complete the continuing education requirements specified in this subchapter and may request the extension under §19.803(c) of this title; and]

[(2) a military service member serving in a combat theater, as provided for in Insurance Code §36.109, may apply to TDI for an exemption from or an extension of time for meeting the continuing education requirements or extending the licensee's license renewal under §19.803(f) of this title.]

(f) [(g)] An individual holding a risk manager license is exempt from the continuing education requirements under this subchapter for any license held by the individual, if the individual demonstrates in writing to TDI that the individual has held one of the following designations listed in Insurance Code §4153.055, concerning Exemptions from Examination and Continuing Education Requirement, for a period of not less than 30 years:

(1) certified insurance counselor,

(2) associate in risk management, or

(3) certified risk manager.

(g) [(h)] A licensee holding only a funeral prearrangement life insurance agent license or a life insurance not exceeding \$25,000 agent license and meeting the requirements specified in Insurance Code \$4054.159, concerning Continuing Education Exemption, or Insurance Code \$4054.207, concerning Continuing Education Exemption, is exempt from completing the continuing education requirements in this subchapter. A licensee claiming this exemption must attest to meeting this requirement during each reporting period with the licensee's license renewal.

CERTIFICATION. This agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the proposal and found it to be within the agency's legal authority to adopt.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on November 14, 2023.

— DocuSigned by: Jessica Barta — 5DAC5618BBC74D4...

Jessica Barta, General Counsel Texas Department of Insurance