Subchapter B. Licensing and Regulation 28 TAC §25.24

INTRODUCTION. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) proposes to amend 28 TAC §25.24, concerning applications for an insurance premium finance company license. The proposed amendments to §25.24 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 with 50 USC §4025a. Proposed new §1.814 applies generally to all licenses, permits, certifications, and other authorizations issued by TDI, including insurance premium finance company licenses.

Section 25.24 addresses requirements for insurance premium finance company licenses, and subsections (c) and (d) of §25.24 provide alternative licensing procedures for military spouses and related application fee exemption. This proposal removes subsections (c) and (d) because they will be made redundant by proposed new §1.814. In addition, subsection (b) is amended to remove a reference to subsection (d).

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 proposed amendments are in effect, there will be no measurable fiscal impact on state and local governments as a result of enforcing or administering the amended section, other than that imposed by the statute. Ms. Delgado made this determination because the proposed amendments 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 section.

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 proposed amended section is in effect, Ms. Delgado expects that administering and enforcing the proposed amendments will have the public benefits of removing redundant provisions and ensuring that TDI's rules conform to Occupations Code §55.0041 in a consistent way.

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

determined that the proposal 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 proposed amended section is 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 an existing regulation;
 - will 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.

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY. TDI proposes amendments to §25.24 under Occupations Code §55.0041 and Insurance Code §651.003 and §36.001.

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 §651.003 authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules necessary to administer Insurance Code Chapter 651.

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. Amended §25.24 implements Occupations Code §55.0041.

TEXT.

§25.24. License Application.

- (a) An applicant for an insurance premium finance company license must file an application Form PF1 with TDI. The application must include the following as applicable:
 - (1) List of Principals (Form PF2);
 - (2) Premium Finance Application Questionnaire (Form PF3);
 - (3) Biographical Affidavit (Form PF4) for each individual named on Form PF2;
 - (4) General statement of experience giving applicant's qualifications;
 - (5) List of Other States of Licensure (Form PF5);
 - (6) Appointment of Statutory Agent and Consent to Service (Form PF6);
 - (7) Sworn financial statement;
 - (8) Sample Business Operation forms;
 - (9) \$400 Investigation Fee;
 - (10) Partnership agreement;
- (11) Certified copy of Assumed Name Certificate as on file with the County Clerk or Secretary of State;
- (12) Originally certified copy of Articles of Incorporation from the Office of the Secretary of State or equivalent office in another state;
 - (13) Certified copy of Bylaws;
 - (14) Certified copy of Minutes;
- (15) Current Franchise Tax Certificate of Good Standing or letter of exemption issued by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; and

- (16) Certified copy of Certificate of Authority issued by the Texas Secretary of State (foreign corporations only).
- (b) On [Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, on] notification by TDI of approval of the application, the applicant must submit a license fee as follows:
 - (1) Licenses issued January 1 through June 30--\$200;
 - (2) Licenses issued July 1 through December 31--\$100.
- [(c) Military spouses who are licensed in a state with substantially equivalent requirements to those of this state are eligible for a license while the military service member to whom the military spouse is married is stationed at a military installation in this state. This license is effective for a period of three years from the date the spouse receives confirmation from the Texas Department of Insurance of receipt of the items described by this subsection. The military spouse must:]
- [(1) submit an application notifying TDI of the military spouse's intent to operate under the license in Texas;]
- [(2) submit to TDI proof of the military spouse's residency in Texas and a copy of the spouse's military identification card; and]
- [(3) show evidence of good standing from the jurisdiction with substantially equivalent requirements to the requirements of this state.]
 - [(d) A military spouse will not be assessed any application fees under this section.]

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.

TITLE 28. INSURANCE
Part I. Texas Department of Insurance
Chapter 25. Insurance Premium Finance

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