### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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(Insurance holding companies)

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LAWS OF:

1995

CHAPTER:

338

BILL NO:

S2318

SPONSOR(S):

Cardinale

DATE INTRODUCED:

October 19, 1995

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY

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SENATE:

Commerce

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:

No

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:

December 11, 1995

SENATE:

December 11, 1995

DATE OF APPROVAL:

January 5, 1996

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:

No

SENATE:

Yes

FISCAL NOTE:

No

**VETO MESSAGE:** 

No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS:

No

**HEARINGS:** 

No

KBP:pp

## P.L.1995, CHAPTER 338, approved January 5, 1996 1995 Senate No. 2318

1 AN ACT concerning insurance holding company systems and 2 amending P.L.1970, c.22.

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42 43 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. Section 3 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-3) is amended to read as follows:
  - 3. Registration of insurers.
- Registration. Every insurer which is authorized to do business in this State and which is a member of an insurance holding company system shall register with the commissioner, except a foreign insurer subject to disclosure requirements and standards adopted by statute or regulation in the jurisdiction of its domicile which are substantially similar to those contained in: this section; paragraph (1) of subsection a. and subsections b. and c. of section 4 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-4); and either paragraph (2) of subsection a. of section 4 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-4) or a substantially similar provision which requires that each registered insurer shall keep current the information required to be disclosed in its registration statement by reporting all material changes or additions, including change of or additions to ownership, within 15 days after the end of each month in which it learns of each such change or addition. Any insurer which is subject to registration under this section shall register within 60 days after the effective date of [this 1993 amendatory and supplementary act] P.L.1993, c.241 or 15 days after it becomes subject to registration, whichever is later, and annually thereafter by April 1 of each year for the previous calendar year, unless the commissioner for good cause shown extends the time for registration, and then within such extended time. commissioner may require any authorized insurer which is a member of a holding company system which is not subject to registration under this section to furnish a copy of the registration statement or other information filed by such insurance company with the insurance regulatory authority of domiciliary jurisdiction.
- b. Information and form required. Every insurer subject to registration shall file a registration statement and a summary of the registration statement on a form provided by the commissioner, which shall contain current information about:
- (1) The capital structure, general financial condition, ownership and management of the insurer and any person controlling the insurer;

EXPLANATION—-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

- (2) The identity and relationship of every member of the insurance holding company system;
- (3) The following agreements in force, relationships subsisting, and transactions currently outstanding or which have occurred during the last calendar year between such insurer and its affiliates:
- (a) Loans, other investments, or purchases, sales or exchanges of securities of the affiliates by the insurer or of the insurer by its affiliates;
  - (b) Purchases, sales, or exchanges of assets;
  - (c) Transactions not in the ordinary course of business;
- (d) Guarantees or undertakings for the benefit of an affiliate which result in an actual contingent exposure of the insurer's assets to liability, other than insurance contracts entered into in the ordinary course of the insurer's business;
- (e) All management [and] <u>agreements</u>, service contracts and all cost-sharing arrangements [, other than cost allocation arrangements based upon generally accepted accounting principles];
  - (f) Reinsurance agreements;

- (g) Dividends and other distributions to shareholders, including the declarations and authorizations thereof; and
  - (h) Consolidated tax allocation agreements;
- (4) Any pledge of the insurer's stock, including stock of any subsidiary or controlling affiliate, for a loan made to any member of the insurance holding company system; or
- (5) Other matters concerning transactions between registered insurers and any affiliates as may be included from time to time in any registration forms adopted or approved by the commissioner.
- All registration statements shall contain a summary outlining all items in the current registration statement representing changes from the prior registration statement.
- c. Materiality. No information need be disclosed on the registration statement filed pursuant to subsection b. of this section if such information is not material for the purposes of this section. Unless the commissioner by rule, regulation or order provides otherwise, sales, purchases, exchanges, loans or extensions of credit, investments, or guarantees or other contingent obligations involving 1/2 of 1% or less of an insurer's admitted assets as of December 31 next preceding shall not be deemed material for purposes of this section.
- d. Amendments to registration statements. Each registered insurer shall keep current the information required to be disclosed in its registration statement by reporting all material changes or additions on amendment forms provided by the commissioner within 15 days after the end of the month in which it learns of each such change or addition.
- e. Information of insurers. Any person within an insurance holding company system subject to registration shall be required to provide complete and accurate information to an insurer, if that information is reasonably necessary to enable the insurer to comply with the provisions of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-1 et seq.).
- f. Termination of registration. The commissioner shall

terminate the registration of any insurer which demonstrates that it no longer is a member of an insurance holding company system.

- g. Consolidated filing. The commissioner may require or allow two or more affiliated insurers subject to registration hereunder to file a consolidated registration statement or consolidated reports amending their consolidated registration statement or their individual registration statements.
- h. Alternative registration. The commissioner may allow an insurer which is authorized to do business in this State and which is part of an insurance holding company system to register on behalf of any affiliated insurer which is required to register under subsection a. and to file all information and material required to be filed under this section.
- i. Exemptions. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any insurer, information or transaction if and to the extent that the commissioner by rule, regulation, or order shall exempt the same from the provisions of this section.
- j. Disclaimer. Any person may file with the commissioner a disclaimer of affiliation with any authorized insurer or such a disclaimer may be filed by such insurer or any member of an insurance holding company system. The disclaimer shall fully disclose all material relationships and bases for affiliation between such person and such insurer as well as the basis for disclaiming such affiliation. After a disclaimer has been filed, the insurer shall be relieved of any duty to register or report under this section which may arise out of the insurer's relationship with such person unless and until the commissioner disallows such a disclaimer. The commissioner shall disallow such a disclaimer only after furnishing all parties in interest with notice and opportunity to be heard and after making specific findings of fact to support such disallowance.
- k. Violations. The failure to file a registration statement or any amendment thereto required by this section within the time specified for such filing shall be a violation of this section.
- (cf: P.L.1993, c.241, s.3)

- 2. Section 4 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-4) is amended to read as follows:
  - 4. a. Transactions with affiliates.
- (1) Transactions by registered insurers with their affiliates shall be subject to the following standards:
  - (a) The terms shall be fair and reasonable:
  - (b) Charges or fees for services performed shall be reasonable;
- (c) Expenses incurred and payment received shall be allocated to the insurer in conformity with customary insurance accounting practices consistently applied;
- (d) The books, accounts and records of each party to all such transactions shall be so maintained as to clearly and accurately disclose the precise nature and details of the transactions, including such accounting information as is necessary to support the reasonableness of the charges or fees to the respective parties; and
- (e) The insurer's surplus as regards policyholders following any transaction with affiliates or dividends or distributions to shareholder affiliates shall be reasonable in relation to the

insurer's outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs.

- (2) The following transactions involving a domestic insurer and any person in its holding company system may not be entered into unless the insurer has notified the commissioner in writing of its intention to enter into that transaction at least 30 days prior thereto, or such shorter period as the commissioner may permit, and the commissioner has not disapproved it within that 30 day period:
- (a) Sales, purchases, exchanges, loans or extensions of credit, guarantees or other contingent obligations, investments, or loans collateralized by the stock of a subsidiary or affiliate, provided such transactions equal or exceed: (i) with respect to insurers other than life insurers, the lesser of 3% of the insurer's admitted assets or 25% of surplus as regards policyholders, as of December 31 next preceding; (ii) with respect to life insurers, 3% of the insurer's admitted assets, as of December 31 next preceding;
- (b) Loans or extensions of credit to any person who is not an affiliate, in which the insurer makes such loans or extensions of credit with the agreement or understanding that the proceeds of such transactions, in whole or in substantial part, are to be used to make loans or extensions of credit to, to purchase assets of, or to make investments in, any affiliate of the insurer making those loans or extensions of credit, provided those transactions are equal to or exceed: (i) with respect to insurers other than life insurers, the lesser of 3% of the insurer's admitted assets or 25% of surplus as regards policyholders, as of December 31 next preceding; (ii) with respect to life insurers, 3% of the insurer's admitted assets, as of December 31 next preceding;
- (c) Reinsurance agreements or modifications thereto in which the reinsurance premium or a change in the insurer's liabilities equals or exceeds 5% of the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders, as of December 31 next preceding, including those agreements which may require as consideration the transfer of assets from an insurer to a non-affiliate if an agreement or understanding exists between the insurer and non-affiliate that any portion of those assets will be transferred to one or more affiliates of the insurer;
- (d) All management agreements, service contracts and all cost-sharing arrangements; and
- (e) Any material transactions, specified by regulation, which the commissioner determines may adversely affect the interests of the insurer's policyholders. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize or permit any transactions which, in the case of an insurer which is not a member of the same holding company system, would be otherwise contrary to law.
- (3) A domestic insurer may not enter into transactions which are part of a plan or series of like transactions with persons within the holding company system if the purpose of those separate transactions is to avoid the statutory threshold amount and thus avoid the review that would otherwise occur. If the commissioner determines that such separate transactions were entered into over any 12 month period for that purpose, he may

exercise his authority under section 8 of P.L.1993, c.241 (C.17:27A-9.1).

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- (4) The commissioner, in reviewing transactions pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, shall consider whether the transactions comply with the standards set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and whether they may adversely affect the interests of policyholders.
- (5) The commissioner shall be notified within 30 days of any investment of the domestic insurer in any one corporation if the total investment in that corporation by the insurance holding company system exceeds 10% of that corporation's voting securities.
- (6) The commissioner may by regulation specify certain types of transactions that need not be submitted for review under this subsection if he determines that those transactions would not have a significant impact on the financial condition or methods of operation of the insurer.
- b. Adequacy of surplus. For purposes of this chapter, in determining whether an insurer's surplus as regards policyholders is reasonable in relation to the insurer's outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs, the following factors, among others, shall be considered:
- (1) The size of the insurer as measured by its assets, capital and surplus, reserves, premium writings, insurance in force and other appropriate criteria;
- (2) The extent to which the insurer's business is diversified among the several lines of insurance;
- (3) The number and size of risks insured in each line of business;
- (4) The extent of the geographical dispersion of the insurer's insured risks;
  - (5) The nature and extent of the insurer's reinsurance program;
- (6) The quality, diversification, and liquidity of the insurer's investment portfolio;
- (7) The recent past and projected future trend in the size of the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders;
- (8) The surplus as regards policyholders maintained by other comparable insurers in respect of the factors enumerated in this subsection;
  - (9) The adequacy of the insurer's reserves;
- (10) The quality and liquidity of investments in affiliates. The commissioner may discount any such investments or treat any such investment as a disallowed asset for purposes of determining the adequacy of surplus as regards policyholders whenever in his judgment such investment so warrants; and
- (11) The quality of the insurer's earnings and the extent to which the reported earnings include extraordinary items.
  - c. Dividends and other distributions.
- (1) A domestic insurer subject to registration under section 3 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-3) shall report to the commissioner any dividend or distribution to its shareholders within five business days following declaration and at least 30 days, after receipt of that report by the commissioner, prior to payment. For good cause shown, the commissioner may reduce the

notification period prior to payment to a period of not less than 10 days. The commissioner shall limit or disallow the payment of any dividend or distribution if he determines that the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders is not reasonable in relation to its outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs pursuant to subsection b. of this section or if the insurer is otherwise found to be in a hazardous financial condition.

- (2) (a) No domestic insurer subject to registration under section 3 shall pay any extraordinary dividend or make any other extraordinary distribution to its shareholders until (i) 30 days after the commissioner has received notice of the declaration thereof and has not within such period disapproved such payment, or (ii) the commissioner shall have approved such payment within such 30-day period.
- (b) For purposes of this paragraph, an extraordinary dividend or distribution includes any dividend or distribution of cash or other property, whose fair market value together with that of other dividends or distributions made within the preceding 12 months exceeds the greater of (i) 10% of such insurer's surplus as regards policyholders as of December 31 next preceding, or (ii) the net gain from operations of such insurer, if such insurer is a life insurer, or the net income, if such insurer is not a life insurer, not including realized capital gains, for the 12 month period ending December 31 next preceding, but shall not include pro rata distributions of any class of the insurer's own securities.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a domestic insurer may declare an extraordinary dividend or distribution which is conditional upon the commissioner's approval thereof, and such a declaration shall confer no rights upon policyholders until (i) 30 days after the commissioner has received notice of the declaration thereof and has not within such period disapproved such payment, or (ii) the commissioner shall have approved such payment within such 30-day period.
- (3) Except for extraordinary dividends or distributions paid pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, all dividends or distributions to shareholders shall be declared or paid by insurers subject to registration under section 3 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-3) from only earned surplus. For purposes of this paragraph, "earned surplus" means unassigned funds (surplus), as reported on the insurer's annual statement as of December 31 next preceding, less unrealized capital gains and revaluation of assets.
  - d. Management of domestic insurers subject to registration.
- (1) Notwithstanding the control of a domestic insurer by any person, the officers and directors of the insurer shall not thereby be relieved of any obligation or liability to which they would otherwise be subject by law, and the insurer shall be managed so as to assure its separate operating identity consistent with P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-1 et seq.).
- (2) Nothing herein shall preclude a domestic insurer from having or sharing a common management or cooperative or joint use of personnel, property or services with one or more other persons under arrangements meeting the standards of paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section.

- (3) Not less than one-third of the directors of a domestic insurer, and not less than one-third of the members of each committee of the board of directors of any domestic insurer, shall be persons who are not officers or employees of that insurer or of any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, that insurer and who are not beneficial owners of a controlling interest in the voting securities of that insurer or any such entity. At least one such person shall be included in any quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board of directors or any committee thereof.
- (4) The board of directors of a domestic insurer shall establish one or more committees comprised solely of directors who are not officers or employees of the insurer or of any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, the insurer and who are not beneficial owners of a controlling interest in the voting securities of the insurer or any such entity. The committee shall be responsible for recommending the selection of independent certified public accountants, reviewing the insurer's financial condition, the scope and results of the independent audit and any internal audit, nominating candidates for director for election by shareholders or policyholders, evaluating the performance of officers deemed to be principal officers of the insurer and recommending to the board of directors the selection and compensation, including bonuses or other special payments, of the principal officers.
- (5) The provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection d. shall not apply to a domestic insurer if the person controlling the insurer is an entity having a board of directors and committees thereof that <u>substantially</u> meet the requirements of those paragraphs.
- 31 (cf: P.L.1993, c.241, s.4)

- 3. Section 5 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-5) is amended to read as follows:
  - 5. Examination.
- a. Power of commissioner. [Subject to the limitation contained in this section and in] In addition to the powers which the commissioner has under other sections of Title 17 of the Revised Statutes and Title 17B of the New Jersey Statutes relating to the examination of insurers, the commissioner shall also have the power to order any insurer registered under section 3 to produce such records, books, or other information papers in the possession of the insurer or its affiliates as shall be necessary to ascertain the financial condition of the insurer or to determine compliance with P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-1 et seq.). In the event such insurer fails to comply with such order, the commissioner shall have the power to examine such affiliates to obtain such information.
  - b. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1993, c.241.)
- c. Use of consultants. The commissioner may retain at the registered insurer's expense such attorneys, actuaries, accountants and other persons as shall be necessary to assist in the conduct of the examination under subsection a. above. Any persons so retained shall be under the direction and control of the commissioner and shall act in a purely advisory capacity.

d. Expenses. The reasonable expenses of the examination pursuant to subsection a. above shall be fixed and determined by the commissioner, and he shall collect them from the insurer examined, which shall pay them on presentation of an accounting of the expenses.

(cf: P.L.1993, c.241, s.5)

- 4. Section 8 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-8) is amended to read as follows:
- 8. Injunctions; prohibitions against voting securities, sequestration of voting securities.
- a. Injunctions. Whenever it appears to the commissioner that any person or any director, officer, employee or agent thereof has committed or is about to commit a violation of this chapter or of any rule, regulation, or order issued by the commissioner hereunder, the commissioner may apply to the Superior Court for an order enjoining such person or such director, officer, employee or agent thereof from violating or continuing to violate this chapter or any such rule, regulation or order, and for such other equitable relief as the nature of the case and the interests of the insurer's policyholders, creditors and shareholders or the public may require.
- b. Voting of securities; when prohibited. No security which is the subject of any agreement or arrangement regarding acquisition, or which is acquired or to be acquired, in contravention of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule, regulation or order issued by the commissioner hereunder may be voted at any shareholders' meeting, or may be counted for quorum purposes, and any action of shareholders requiring the affirmative vote of a percentage of shares may be taken as though such securities were not issued and outstanding; but no action taken at any such meeting shall be invalidated by the voting of such securities, unless the action would materially affect control of the insurer or unless the courts of this State have so ordered. If an insurer or the commissioner has reason to believe that any security of the insurer has been or is about to be acquired in contravention of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule, regulation or order issued by the commissioner hereunder the insurer or the commissioner may apply to the Superior Court to enjoin any offer, request, invitation, agreement or acquisition made in contravention of section [4] 2 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-2) or any rule, regulation, or order issued by the commissioner thereunder to enjoin the voting of any security so acquired, to void any vote of such security already cast at any meeting of shareholders, and for such other equitable relief as the nature of the case and the interests of the insurer's policyholders, creditors and shareholders or the public may require.
- c. Sequestration of voting securities. In any case where a person has acquired or is proposing to acquire any voting securities in violation of this chapter or any rule, regulation or order issued by the commissioner hereunder, the Superior Court may, on such notice as the court deems appropriate, upon the application of the insurer or the commissioner seize or sequester any voting securities of the insurer owned directly or indirectly

by such person, and issue such orders with respect thereto as may 1 be appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this chapter. 2 3 Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, for the purposes of this chapter the situs of the ownership of the securities of domestic insurers shall be deemed to be in this State. 5 6

(cf: P.L.1970, c.22, s.8)

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### **STATEMENT**

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This bill makes certain changes with respect to the information to be contained in the annual registration statement filed with the Department of Insurance by insurers which are members of an insurance holding company system. The bill requires the registration statement to contain current information about all management agreements, as well as service contracts and cost-sharing arrangements. This change will ensure consistency with other provisions of the holding company systems law, which requires domestic insurers to notify the department prior to entering into any management agreement, service contract, or cost-sharing arrangement.

The bill also provides that a domestic insurer does not have to comply with the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-4) concerning boards of directors and committees thereof if the controlling insurer substantially meets the requirements of those paragraphs.

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Concerns insurance holding company systems.

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Concerns insurance holding company systems.

#### SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

# SENATE, No. 2318

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 1995

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 2318

This bill makes certain changes with respect to the information to be contained in the annual registration statement filed with the Department of Insurance by insurers which are members of an insurance holding company system. The bill requires the registration statement to contain current information about all management agreements, as well as service contracts and cost-sharing arrangements. This change will ensure consistency with other provisions of the holding company systems law, which requires domestic insurers to notify the department prior to entering into any management agreement, service contract, or cost-sharing arrangement.

The bill also provides that a domestic insurer does not have to comply with the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1970, c.22 (C.17:27A-4) concerning boards of directors and committees thereof if the controlling insurer substantially meets the requirements of those paragraphs.

In addition, the bill deletes a reference to a limitation on the power of the Commissioner of Insurance regarding the examination of insurers registered under the holding company act, since that limitation was repealed by P.L.1993, c.241. The bill makes various other technical changes, including correcting an internal reference.