

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1175
(Industry, Business and Labor Committee)
(At the request of the Commissioner of Insurance)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 26.1-01 and sections 26.1-05-02.1, 26.1-12-11.1, and 26.1-26-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to electronic filings, domestic insurance companies, incorporated mutual insurance companies, and authorized lines of business; to amend and reenact sections 26.1-05-02, 26.1-12-01, 26.1-12-06, 26.1-12-11, 26.1-26-01, 26.1-26-11, 26.1-26-25, and 26.1-26-31.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to domestic insurance companies, mutual insurance companies, insurance agents, authorized lines of business, and exceptions from examination requirements; to repeal section 26.1-05-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to organization of a domestic mutual life insurance company; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 26.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Electronic filings allowed.

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the commissioner may adopt rules that allow either an applicant or a licensee to file documents electronically with the commissioner or the commissioner's designee. The rules may contain procedures for the electronic filing of the following:
 - a. Any document required as part of an application for a license under this title;
 - b. Any document required to be filed by an applicant or licensee to maintain the license in good standing;
 - c. Any fee required under this title; and
 - d. Any other document required or permitted to be filed.
2. This section may not be interpreted to supersede any other provision of law that requires the electronic filing of a document or to require an applicant or licensee to make any other filing electronically.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-05-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-05-02. Organization of domestic stock company - Number of persons required - Authorized lines. Any number of persons not less than seven may form a corporation on the stock plan to carry on one or more of the following lines of insurance:

1. ~~Against loss or damage by fire, lightning, cyclone, tornado, hail, or theft.~~ Life and annuity means insurance coverage on human lives including benefits of endowment, annuities, and credit life.
2. ~~Against the risks of inland navigation and transportation.~~ Accident and health means insurance coverage for sickness, disease, injury, accidental death, and disability.

3. ~~Upon the lives of persons, including every kind of insurance pertaining thereto. Property means insurance coverage for direct and consequential loss of or damage to property of every kind.~~
4. ~~Against accidental injuries including the granting, purchasing, and paying of annuities and indemnities. Casualty means insurance coverage against legal liability including that for death, injury, or disability or damage to real or personal property.~~
5. ~~To transact fidelity insurance and corporate suretyship. Variable life and annuity means insurance coverage provided under variable life insurance contracts, variable annuities, or any other life insurance or annuity that reflects the investment experience of a separate account.~~
6. ~~Upon automobiles covering in one policy or in separate policies fire, theft, property damage, liability, and collision insurance.~~
7. ~~Covering any other hazard not specifically prohibited by the laws of this state as a subject of insurance.~~
8. ~~Against legal expense.~~

A stock insurance company incorporated under this chapter may carry the lines of insurance mentioned in this section which have been expressed in its articles of incorporation.

SECTION 3. Section 26.1-05-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

26.1-05-02.1. Authority to define products. The commissioner may adopt rules that define and set forth the specific insurance products found under each line of insurance set forth in section 26.1-05-02.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-12-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-12-01. Organization of mutual insurance company - Minimum number of members. Any number of persons, not less than twenty, a majority of whom must be bona fide residents of this state, may become, together with others who thereafter may be associated with them or their successors, a body corporate for the purpose of carrying on the business of mutual insurance as provided in this chapter by complying with this chapter. Any number of persons, not less than seven, may form a mutual life insurance company and, with others who may become associated with them or their successors, may become a body corporate for the purpose of carrying on the business of a mutual life insurance company. A mutual life insurance company organized under this chapter may carry insurance upon the lives of persons, including every kind of insurance pertaining thereto.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-12-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-12-06. Bylaws of mutual company - Meetings - Notice - Quorum. The bylaws of any mutual insurance company organized under this chapter ~~or chapter 26.1-05~~ must prescribe the manner of notification to members of all corporation meetings of members and must prescribe what constitutes a quorum of members. A quorum is those members present in person or represented by written proxies. A majority of those voting is sufficient to approve or reject any proposal submitted at any annual or special meeting. Every member of the company is entitled to one vote only. Every member must be notified of the time and place of the holding of the meetings of the company by a written notice or by an imprint on the back of each policy, receipt, or certificate of renewal. In addition, a notice of any annual or special meeting must be published in the official newspaper of the county in which the principal office of the company is located. The notice must be published at least twice, the first publication to be made at least sixty days before the meeting. If a special meeting of members is called, a notice of the time, place, and object of the meeting must be mailed to all members at least sixty days before the meeting.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-12-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-12-11. Authority to insure or reinsure - ~~Kinds~~ Types of insurance open to mutual company. Any mutual insurance company organized under this chapter may make insurance contracts, and may reinsure or accept reinsurance on any portion thereof, to the extent specified in its articles of incorporation, for the following ~~kinds~~ lines of insurance:

1. ~~Fire, hail, lightning, tornado, and other insurance. Against loss or damage to property, and the loss of use and occupancy thereof, by fire, lightning, hail, tempest, flood, earthquake, frost or snow, explosion with fire ensuing, and explosion with no fire ensuing, except explosion by steam boilers or flywheels; against loss or damage by water caused by the breakage or leakage of sprinklers, pumps or other apparatus, water pipes, plumbing, or their fixtures, erected for extinguishing fires, and against accidental injury to the sprinklers, pumps or other apparatus, water pipes, plumbing, or fixtures; against the risks of inland transportation and navigation; upon automobiles, whether stationary or operated under their own power, against loss or damage by any of the causes or risks specified in this subsection, including also transportation, collision, liability for damage to property resulting from owning, maintaining, or using automobiles, and including burglary and theft, but not including loss or damage by reason of bodily injury to the person. Life and annuity means insurance coverage on human lives including benefits of endowment, annuities, and credit life.~~
2. ~~Liability insurance. Against loss, expense, or liability by reason of bodily injury or death by accident, disability, sickness, or disease suffered by others for which the insured may be liable or may have assumed liability. Accident and health means insurance coverage for sickness, disease, injury, accidental death, and disability.~~
3. ~~Disability insurance. Against bodily injury or death by accident and disability by sickness. Property means insurance coverage for direct and consequential loss of or damage to property of every kind.~~
4. ~~Automobile insurance. Against any or all loss, expense, and liability resulting from the ownership, maintenance, or use of any automobile or other vehicle. A policy may not be issued under this subsection against the hazard of fire alone. Casualty means insurance coverage against legal liability including that for death, injury, or disability or damage to real or personal property.~~
5. ~~Steam boiler insurance. Against loss or liability to persons or property resulting from explosions or accidents to boilers, containers, pipes, engines, flywheels, and elevators and machinery used in connection therewith, and against loss of use and occupancy caused thereby. If the company issues insurance under this subsection, it may make inspections and issue certificates of inspection. Variable life and annuity means insurance coverage provided under variable life insurance contracts, variable annuities, or any other life insurance or annuity that reflects the investment experience of a separate account.~~
6. ~~Use and occupancy insurance. Against loss from interruption of trade or business which may be the result of any accident or casualty.~~
7. ~~Miscellaneous insurance. Against loss or damage by any hazard upon any risk not provided for in this section which is not prohibited by statute or at common law from being the subject of insurance, except life insurance.~~
8. ~~Legal expense insurance.~~

SECTION 7. Section 26.1-12-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

26.1-12-11.1. Authority to define products. The product types found under each of the above lines of insurance are those adopted pursuant to section 26.1-05-02.1.

SECTION 8. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-26-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-26-01. Scope. This chapter governs the qualifications and procedures for the licensing of insurance agents, insurance brokers, insurance consultants, limited insurance representatives, and surplus lines insurance brokers. This chapter applies to all lines of insurance and types of insurers including ~~life, health, property, liability, credit, title, fire, or marine operating on a stock, mutual, reciprocal, benevolent, fraternal, or health service plan, as set forth in this title~~ prepaid legal service organizations and health maintenance organizations.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-26-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-26-11. License of agent or broker - Lines of insurance. An insurance agent, insurance broker, or surplus lines insurance broker may receive ~~qualification for~~ a license ~~in~~ to market products under one or more of the following lines:

1. ~~Life insurance and annuity contracts~~ means insurance coverage on human lives including benefits of endowment, annuities, and credit life.
2. ~~Sickness, accident, Accident and health insurance~~ means insurance coverage for sickness, disease, injury, accidental death, and disability.
3. ~~Credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance.~~
4. ~~Fire and allied lines.~~
5. ~~Vehicle liability and vehicle physical damage insurance.~~
6. ~~Comprehensive personal and general liability coverage.~~
7. ~~Marine and transportation insurance.~~
8. ~~Credit and mortgage guarantee insurance.~~
9. ~~Burglary and theft insurance.~~
10. ~~Grop insurance.~~
11. ~~Bail bonds.~~
12. ~~Fidelity and surety insurance.~~
13. ~~Homeowners' and farmowners' multiple peril insurance.~~
14. ~~Commercial multiple peril insurance.~~
15. 3. ~~Property and casualty insurance sold in connection with a credit transaction~~ means insurance coverage for direct and consequential loss of or damage to property of every kind.
4. Casualty means insurance coverage against legal liability including that for death, injury, or disability or damage to real or personal property.
16. ~~Industrial fire insurance.~~
17. ~~Legal expense insurance.~~
18. 5. ~~Variable annuities and variable life insurance~~ life and annuity means insurance coverage provided under variable life insurance contracts, variable annuities, or any other life insurance or annuity that reflects the investment experience of a separate account.
19. ~~Title insurance.~~

The product types found under each of the above lines of insurance are those adopted pursuant to section 26.1-15-02.1.

SECTION 10. Section 26.1-26-11.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

26.1-26-11.1. Authority to define procedures and requirements. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement licensing procedures and requirements specific to each line of insurance and each product type within each line of insurance.

SECTION 11. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-26-25 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-26-25. Exceptions from examination. The requirement for a written examination is subject to the following exceptions:

1. An applicant for a license covering the same line or lines of insurance for which the applicant was licensed under a like resident license in this state, other than a temporary license, within the twelve months next preceding the date of application, unless the previous license was suspended or revoked by the commissioner.
2. A nonresident applicant may be licensed without examination if the commissioner of the state of the applicant's residence certifies, by facsimile signature and seal, that the applicant has passed a similar written examination, or has been a continuous holder prior to the time the written examination was required, of a license like the license being applied for in this state.
3. An applicant who has been licensed under a like license in another state within twelve months prior to the application for a license in this state, and who files with the commissioner the certificate of the public official having supervision of insurance in the other state, by facsimile signature and seal, as to the applicant's license and good standing in such state; provided, however, that the applicant shall take that portion of the examination pertaining to state laws and rules.
4. An applicant who has attained the designation of chartered life underwriter is only required to take that portion of the examination for lines one and ~~eighteen~~ five pertaining to state laws and rules.
5. An applicant who has attained the designation of chartered property and casualty underwriter is only required to take that portion of the examination for lines ~~two through seventeen~~ three and four pertaining to state laws and rules.
6. An applicant for a license to act as a limited insurance representative may be licensed without examination ~~in one or more of the following lines:~~
 - a. ~~Any ticket selling agent of a common carrier who acts thereunder only with reference to the issuance of insurance on personal effects carried as baggage, in connection with the transportation provided by the common carrier, or an applicant selling limited travel accident insurance in transportation terminals.~~
 - b. ~~Any other lines that to market a specific product type if the commissioner finds by rule ~~do~~ the specific product type does not require the same professional competency demanded for a license as an agent or broker other product types.~~
7. An applicant for a license to write only a specific product type may be licensed subject to reduced examination requirements if the commissioner finds by rule that the requirements for licensure would otherwise be too burdensome and unrelated to that specific product type.

SECTION 12. AMENDMENT. Section 26.1-26-31.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

26.1-26-31.1. Continuing education required - Exceptions.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person licensed as an insurance agent, insurance broker, surplus lines insurance broker, or insurance consultant shall provide the commissioner evidence, as required by the commissioner, that the person attended or participated in continuing education of not less than fifteen hours per year of approved coursework, of which seven and one-half hours per year must be classroom hours. The commissioner may waive the requirement of seven and one-half hours per year of classroom hours. The commissioner may reduce the minimum number of hours per year of approved coursework for any person having a license limited to a ~~single line of insurance as described in section 26.1-26-14~~ specific product type. The continuing education advisory task force may recommend granting up to fifteen hours continuing education credit for nationally recognized insurance education correspondence programs. The commissioner shall review the task force's recommendation, and the commissioner may approve up to fifteen hours of credit. Credit for courses attended in any one year over the minimum number of hours of coursework required may be credited to the year next preceding the year in which they were earned or to the year next following the year in which they were earned. Reports of continuing education must be made at the end of each two-year period following licensure. No continuing education is required of an agent licensed for the sale of life insurance or sickness, accident, and health insurance, or both, who is at least sixty-two years of age, who has a combined total years of continuous licensure as such agent and years of age which equals eighty-five, and whose commissions from new business each year do not exceed ten thousand dollars. No continuing education is required of an insurance agent who sells only group credit life or group credit accident and health insurance to cover an indebtedness.
2. The commissioner shall by rule divide the persons subject to this section into two equal segments for the purpose of reporting, as follows:
 - a. One-half of the persons shall file their report showing at least the minimum number of required hours of approved coursework for the previous two years within thirty days of January first of every odd-numbered year.
 - b. One-half of the persons shall file a report showing at least the minimum number of required hours of approved coursework for the previous two years within thirty days of January first of every even-numbered year.
3. All persons licensed after January 1, 1989, shall report within thirty days of the first day of January of the year following the second anniversary of the person's licensure.

SECTION 13. REPEAL. Section 26.1-05-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act becomes effective on July 1, 2000.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1175.

House Vote: Yeas 97 Nays 0 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 2

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State