

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 276(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/22/04
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the Alaska Insurance Guaranty Association; relating to the powers**
2 **of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority concerning the association;**
3 **and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 21.80.060(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) The association

7 (1) is obligated to pay covered claims existing before the order of
8 liquidation and arising within 30 days after the order of liquidation, or before the
9 policy expiration date if less than 30 days after the order of liquidation, or before the
10 insured replaces the policy or causes its cancellation if the insured does so within 30
11 days after the order of liquidation, but this obligation includes only that amount of
12 each covered claim that is less than \$500,000, except that a covered claim for return of
13 unearned premium may not exceed \$10,000 for each policy, and except that the
14 association shall pay the full amount of any covered claim arising out of a workers'

1 compensation policy; the association is not obligated

2 (A) to a policyholder or claimant in an amount in excess of the
3 obligation of the insolvent insurer under the policy from which the claim
4 arises; or

5 (B) to pay a claim filed with the association after the final date
6 set by the court for the filing of claims against the liquidator or receiver of an
7 insolvent insurer;

8 (2) is considered the insurer to the extent of its obligation on the
9 covered claims and to that extent has all rights, duties, and obligations of the insolvent
10 insurer as if the insurer had not become insolvent;

11 (3) shall allocate claims paid and expenses incurred among the three
12 accounts separately, and assess member insurers separately for each account amounts
13 necessary to pay the obligation of the association under (1) of this subsection
14 subsequent to an insolvency, the expenses of handling covered claims subsequent to
15 an insolvency, and other expenses authorized by this chapter; under this paragraph,

16 (A) the assessments of each member insurer must initially be
17 based on a uniform percentage, as determined by the association, of the net
18 direct written premiums of each member insurer for the last year for which
19 annual statements have been filed on the kinds of insurance in the account; this
20 initial assessment shall be adjusted by applying the same uniform percentage
21 as initially used to each member insurer's net direct written premiums for the
22 calendar year following the year in which the initial assessment was issued;
23 any difference between the initial assessment amount and the adjusted
24 assessment amount allocated to a member insurer shall be levied against or
25 credited back to the member insurer, as appropriate, by the association; the
26 association shall calculate and issue all appropriate levies and credits as soon
27 as practical after all member insurers have filed their annual statements for the
28 calendar year following the year in which the initial assessment was issued;

29 (B) on an annual basis, the association shall determine if
30 funding is required for any of the three accounts; based on this determination,
31 the association shall, during November of each year, issue initial assessments

1 as may be necessary to cover the projected reasonable costs of claims and
 2 expenses to administer the association for the following year; **under this**
 3 **subparagraph.**

4 (i) the association shall use the services of an
 5 independent actuary to assist the association to evaluate and make the
 6 projection;

7 (ii) an initial assessment may be made at any other time
 8 if the association determines funding is necessary, except that a
 9 member insurer may not be assessed initial assessments on any account
 10 in an amount greater than **four** [TWO] percent of the member insurer's
 11 net direct written premiums for the applicable calendar year; **and**

12 **(iii) if an account has insufficient funds to pay**
 13 **covered claims under this section, the association shall assess each**
 14 **member insurer subject to assessment in the other two accounts an**
 15 **additional amount not to exceed two percent of the member**
 16 **insurer's net direct written premiums for the applicable calendar**
 17 **year;**

18 (C) the association may pay claims in any order that it
 19 determines reasonable, including the payment of claims as they are received
 20 from claimants or in groups or categories of claims; however, if the maximum
 21 **of all assessments made under this section** [ASSESSMENT], together with
 22 the other assets of the association in any account, does not provide, in any one
 23 year, in any account, an amount sufficient to make all necessary payments
 24 from that account, the funds available shall be prorated, and the unpaid portion
 25 shall be paid as soon thereafter as funds become available;

26 (D) the association may defer, in whole or in part, an
 27 assessment of any member insurer if the assessment would endanger the ability
 28 of the member insurer to fulfill the insurer's contractual obligations or cause
 29 the member insurer's financial statement to reflect amounts of capital or
 30 surplus less than the minimum amounts required for a certificate of authority
 31 by any jurisdiction in which the member insurer is authorized to transact

1 insurance; however, during the period of deferment, the member insurer may
2 not pay dividends to shareholders or policyholders; a deferred assessment may
3 only be paid when the payment does not reduce capital or surplus below
4 minimums required by law; a member insurer who pays a larger assessment as
5 a result of a deferment given to another member insurer shall receive a refund
6 when the deferment ends or, at the election of the member insurer, receive a
7 credit against future assessments;

8 (E) each member insurer may set off against an assessment
9 authorized payments made on covered claims and expenses incurred in the
10 payment of these claims by the member insurer if they are chargeable to the
11 account for which the assessment is made;

12 (4) shall investigate claims brought against the association, adjust,
13 compromise, settle, and pay covered claims to the extent of the association's
14 obligation, and deny all other claims, and may review settlements, releases, and
15 judgments to which the insolvent insurer or its insureds were parties to determine the
16 extent to which settlements, releases, and judgments may be properly contested;

17 (5) may, subject to AS 21.89.100, appoint, substitute, or direct legal
18 counsel retained under an insurance policy for the defense of a covered claim;

19 (6) shall handle claims through its employees or through one or more
20 insurers or other persons designated as servicing facilities; a servicing facility shall
21 operate and maintain its principal office in this state unless the use of a servicing
22 facility located outside of the state would result in operating cost savings of at least 10
23 percent and would not result in material delay in claim payments; designation of a
24 servicing facility is subject to the approval of the director, but designation may be
25 declined by a member insurer;

26 (7) shall reimburse each servicing facility for obligations of the
27 association paid by the facility and for expenses incurred by the facility while handling
28 claims on behalf of the association and shall pay the other expenses of the association
29 authorized by this chapter.

30 * **Sec. 2.** AS 21.80.060(b) is amended to read:

31 (b) The association may

1 (1) employ or retain those persons necessary to handle claims and
2 perform other duties of the association;

3 (2) borrow funds necessary to effect the purposes of this chapter in
4 accord with the plan of operation **and secure guarantees from the Alaska Industrial**
5 **Development and Export Authority for association loans that are necessary to**
6 **make the association financially able to meet cash flow needs;**

7 (3) sue or be sued;

8 (4) negotiate and become a party to those contracts that are necessary
9 to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

10 (5) perform all other acts necessary or proper to carry out the purposes
11 of this chapter;

12 (6) retain amounts excess of claims, expenses, credits, and other
13 liabilities in any account to be applied to reduce future assessments in that account,
14 except that, if, in any year, the association determines that significant funds in excess
15 of projected claims, expenses, credits, and other liabilities exist in an account, the
16 association shall return amounts to policyholders, through procedures established by
17 the association, whereby the association reimburses member insurers for providing
18 uniform credits against rates and premiums charged for all policies applicable to the
19 account issued during the next calendar year.

20 * **Sec. 3.** AS 44.88.080 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

21 (27) to guarantee loans made to the Alaska Insurance Guaranty
22 Association (AS 21.80.040), with these guarantees limited to loans necessary to make
23 the association financially able to meet cash flow needs up to a maximum outstanding
24 principal balance at any time of \$30,000,000.

25 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).