

Recreation of the Consumer Insurance Council

Background

HB19-1150 recreates and reenacts the consumer insurance council and its duties and responsibilities, as they existed on June 30, 2018. Originally established within the Division of Insurance in 2001, the consumer insurance council was codified as an advisory body in 2008. Appointments are made by the commissioner of insurance to provide advice on insurance matters of interest to the public.

The council was sunsetted on July 1, 2018.

Problem

Consumers often feel that they do not have a voice in the administration of regulated products which have a dramatic impact on their quality of life. While, in recent years, there has been a disproportionate focus on the regulation of health insurance, insurance overall is a complex financial instrument that can be used to mitigate risk, compensate for injury and even fully cover organizational life in every imaginable context. For a product that has such a broad impact on people's everyday lives, everyday people have, historically, been relatively uninvolved in the pricing, packaging, distribution and delivery of that regulated product.

Solution

House Bill 19-1150, Recreation of the Consumer Insurance Council, through feedback from consumers, will ensure that those purchasing insurance in Colorado have a voice in the development of affordable and accessible actuarial products that will help them lead healthy, productive and fulfilling lives.

If reenacted the council will:

- Consist of between 6 members and 15 members
- Involve consumers not engaged or employed in the insurance industry
- Reflect the state's demographic diversity in addition to geographic diversity
- Meet quarterly and may request to meet up to 4 more times per year
- May submit recommendations to the commissioner
- And shall receive timely responses from the commissioner to its recommendations

Support

House Bill 19 1150 is supported by The American Association of Retired People and the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative among many others.