

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was  
3 referred House Bill No. 515 entitled “An act relating to banking, insurance,  
4 and securities” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Insurance; Securities; Banking \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 3685(f)(1) is amended to read:

9 (1) Sales, purchases, exchanges, loans, or extensions of credit,  
10 ~~guarantees~~, or investments, provided such transactions are equal to or exceed:

11 \* \* \*

12 Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. § 5302(e) is amended to read:

13 (e) At the time of the filing of the information prescribed in ~~subsections~~  
14 subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section, except investment companies  
15 subject to 15 U.S.C. § 80a-1 et seq., the issuer shall pay to the Commissioner a  
16 fee of \$600.00. ~~If the notice filing is withdrawn or otherwise terminated, the~~  
17 ~~Commissioner shall retain the fee paid~~ The fee is nonrefundable.

18 Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 5305(b) is amended to read:

19 (b) A person filing a registration statement shall pay a filing fee of \$600.00.  
20 A person filing a registration statement in connection with the New England  
21 Crowdfunding Initiative shall be exempt from the filing fee requirement.

1 Open-end investment companies shall pay a registration fee and an annual  
2 renewal fee for each portfolio as long as the registration of those securities  
3 remains in effect. ~~If a registration statement is withdrawn before the effective~~  
4 ~~date or a preeffective stop order is issued under section 5306 of this title, the~~  
5 ~~Commissioner shall retain the fee~~ The fee is nonrefundable.

6 Sec. 4. 8 V.S.A. § 11601(a)(7) is added to read:

7 (7) Revoke the charter of a Vermont financial institution that ceases to  
8 exist or ceases to be eligible for a charter.

9 Sec. 5. 8 V.S.A. § 14106 is amended to read:

10 § 14106. EXPANDED POWERS OF VERMONT FINANCIAL  
11 INSTITUTIONS

12 In addition to all other powers permitted under these statutes, any Vermont  
13 financial institution shall have the powers conferred under federal law  
14 administered by the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of  
15 the Currency, ~~or the Office of Thrift Supervision~~ FDIC, the Consumer  
16 Financial Protection Bureau, or other federal banking regulator upon national  
17 financial institutions or their subsidiaries.

18 Sec. 6. 8 V.S.A. § 10405(c)(2) is amended to read:

19 (2) All assignments, sales, or transfers of a loan agreement or motor  
20 vehicle or retail installment contract to which a debt protection agreement  
21 relates and the related debt protection agreement, shall be to a financial

1 institution as defined in subdivision 11101(32) of this title, a credit union, or  
2 an entity licensed under subdivision 2201(a)(1) or ~~(3)~~(4) of this title to engage  
3 in lending or sales financing.

4 Sec. 7. 8 V.S.A. § 2502(f) is added to read:

5 (f) A licensee shall register each remote access unit, commonly referred to  
6 as a “kiosk,” where a consumer may access money transmission services,  
7 including buying or selling virtual currency. Each kiosk is subject to the  
8 disclosure requirements established in section 10302 of this title. If a kiosk is  
9 owned by a person other than the licensee and the owner charges an additional  
10 fee to the consumer for access to the licensee’s services, the owner is also  
11 subject to the disclosure requirements of chapter 200 of this title.

12 Sec. 8. 8 V.S.A. § 4724(8) is amended to read:

13 (8) Rebates.

14 \* \* \*

15 (C) Nothing in subdivision (7) or (8)(A) of this section shall be  
16 construed as including within the definition of discrimination or rebates any of  
17 the following practices:

18 \* \* \*

19 (iii) readjustment of the rate of premium for a group insurance  
20 policy based on the loss or expense ~~thereunder~~ under the group insurance  
21 policy, at the end of the first or any subsequent policy year of insurance

1 ~~thereunder~~ under the group policy, which may be made retroactive only for  
2 such policy year;

3 (iv) the offer or provision by insurers, by or through employees,  
4 affiliates, or third-party representatives of value-added products or services at  
5 no or reduced cost, even when such products or services are not specified in  
6 the insurance policy, provided the product or service meets each of the  
7 following criteria:

8 (I) The product or service relates to the insurance coverage.

9 (II) The product or service is primarily designed to satisfy one  
10 or more of the following:

11 (aa) provide loss mitigation or loss control;

12 (bb) reduce claim costs or claim settlement costs;

13 (cc) provide education about liability risks or risk of loss to  
14 persons or property;

15 (dd) monitor or assess risk, identify sources of risk, or  
16 develop strategies for eliminating or reducing risk;

17 (ee) enhance health;

18 (ff) enhance financial wellness through items such as  
19 education or financial planning services;

20 (gg) provide post-loss service;

1                    (hh) incent behavioral changes to improve health or reduce  
2                    the risk of death or disability or an insured or potential insured; or

3                    (ii) assist in the administration of the employee or retiree  
4                    benefit insurance coverage.

5                    (III) The cost to the insurer offering the product or service to  
6                    any given customer is determined by the Commissioner to be reasonable in  
7                    comparison to that customer’s premiums or insurance coverage for the policy  
8                    class.

9                    (IV) The insurer, providing the product or service directly or  
10                   through a producer, ensures that the customer is provided with contact  
11                   information to assist the customer with questions regarding the product or  
12                   service.

13                   (V) The availability of the product or service is based on  
14                   documented objective criteria and offered in a manner that is not unfairly  
15                   discriminatory.

16                   (VI) Within 10 days after offering or providing a product or  
17                   service pursuant to subdivision (8)(C)(iv) of this section, the insurer submits to  
18                   the Commissioner a description of the offer or provision, accompanied by an  
19                   explanation of how each criterion in this subdivision (8)(C)(iv) of this section  
20                   is met.

1           (D) An insurer, producer, or representative of either may not offer or  
2           provide insurance as an inducement to the purchase of another policy or  
3           otherwise use the words “free” or “no cost” or words of similar import in an  
4           advertisement.

5           Sec. 9. 8 V.S.A. § 3750(d)(1)(C)(iii) is amended to read:

6                       (iii) Where the resulting interest rate is not less than ~~one~~ 0.15  
7           percent.

8                               \* \* \* Travel Insurance; Producers; Licensure \* \* \*

9           Sec. 10. 8 V.S.A. chapter 148 is added to read:

10                               CHAPTER 148. TRAVEL INSURANCE

11           § 7122. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

12           (a) The purpose of this chapter is to promote the public welfare by creating  
13           a comprehensive legal framework within which travel insurance may be sold in  
14           Vermont.

15           (b) The requirements of this chapter apply to travel insurance that covers  
16           any resident of this State, and is sold, solicited, negotiated, or offered in this  
17           State, and the policies and certificates of which are delivered or issued for  
18           delivery in this State. It shall not apply to cancellation fee waivers or travel  
19           assistance services, except as expressly provided ~~herein~~ in this chapter.

20           (c) All other applicable provisions of this State’s insurance laws shall  
21           continue to apply to travel insurance except that the specific provisions of this

1 chapter shall supersede any general provisions of law that would otherwise be  
2 applicable to travel insurance.

3 § 7123. DEFINITIONS

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) “Aggregator site” means a website that provides access to  
6 information regarding insurance products from more than one insurer,  
7 including product and insurer information, for use in comparison shopping.

8 (2) “Blanket travel insurance” means a policy of travel insurance issued  
9 to any eligible group providing coverage for specific classes of persons defined  
10 in the policy with coverage provided to all members of the eligible group  
11 without a separate charge to individual members of the eligible group.

12 (3) “Cancellation fee waiver” means a contractual agreement between a  
13 supplier of travel services and its customer to waive some or all of the  
14 nonrefundable cancellation fee provisions of the supplier’s underlying travel  
15 contract with or without regard to the reason for the cancellation or form of  
16 reimbursement. A cancellation fee waiver is not insurance.

17 (4) “Eligible group” means two or more persons who are engaged in a  
18 common enterprise, or have an economic, educational, or social affinity or  
19 relationship, including any of the following:

20 (A) any entity engaged in the business of providing travel or travel  
21 services, including a tour operator, lodging provider, vacation property owner,

1 hotel or resort, travel club, travel agency, property manager, cultural exchange  
2 program, or common carrier, or the operator, owner, or lessor of a means of  
3 transportation of passengers, including to an airline, cruise line, railroad,  
4 steamship company, or public bus carrier, wherein with regard to any  
5 particular travel or type of travel or travelers, all members or customers of the  
6 group have a common exposure to risk attendant to such travel;

7 (B) any college, school, or other institution of learning, covering  
8 students, teachers, employees, or volunteers;

9 (C) any employer covering any group of employees, volunteers,  
10 contractors, board of directors, dependents, or guests;

11 (D) any sports team, camp, or sponsor thereof, covering participants,  
12 members, campers, employees, officials, supervisors, or volunteers;

13 (E) any religious, charitable, recreational, educational, or civic  
14 organization, or branch thereof, covering any group of members, participants,  
15 or volunteers;

16 (F) any financial institution or financial institution vendor, or parent  
17 holding company, trustee, or agent of or designated by one or more financial  
18 institutions or financial institution vendors, including accountholders, credit  
19 card holders, debtors, guarantors, or purchasers;

20 (G) any incorporated or unincorporated association, including a labor  
21 union, having a common interest, constitution, and bylaws and organized and

1 maintained in good faith for purposes other than obtaining insurance for  
2 members or participants of such association covering its members;

3 (H) any trust or the trustees of a fund established, created, or  
4 maintained for the benefit of and covering members, employees, or customers,  
5 subject to the Commissioner’s permitting the use of a trust and the State’s  
6 premium tax provisions in section 7125 of this chapter, of one or more  
7 associations meeting the requirements of subdivision (4)(G) of this section;

8 (I) any entertainment production company covering any group of  
9 participants, volunteers, audience members, contestants, or workers;

10 (J) any volunteer fire department, ambulance, rescue, police, court, or  
11 any first aid, civil defense, or other such volunteer group;

12 (K) any preschool, daycare institution for children or adults, or senior  
13 citizen club;

14 (L) any automobile or truck rental or leasing company covering a  
15 group of individuals who may become renters, lessees, or passengers defined  
16 by their travel status on the rented or leased vehicles, provided that the  
17 common carrier, the operator, owner, or lessor of a means of transportation or  
18 the automobile or truck rental or leasing company is the policyholder under a  
19 policy to which this section applies; or

20 (M) any other group where the Commissioner has determined that the  
21 members are engaged in a common enterprise, or have an economic,

1 educational, or social affinity or relationship, and that issuance of the policy  
2 would not be contrary to the public interest.

3 (5) “Fulfillment materials” means documentation sent to the purchaser  
4 of a travel protection plan confirming the purchase and providing the travel  
5 protection plan’s coverage and assistance details.

6 (6) “Group travel insurance” means travel insurance issued to any  
7 eligible group.

8 (7) “Limited lines travel insurance producer” means a:

9 (A) licensed managing general agent or third-party administrator;

10 (B) licensed insurance producer, including a limited lines producer,  
11 designated by an insurer as the travel insurance supervising entity as set forth  
12 in subsection 7124(f) of this title; or

13 (C) travel administrator.

14 (8) “Offer and disseminate” means to provide general information,  
15 including a description of the coverage and price, as well as to process the  
16 application and collect premiums.

17 (9) “Primary certificate holder” means an individual person who elects  
18 and purchases travel insurance under a group policy.

19 (10) “Primary policyholder” means an individual person who elects and  
20 purchases individual travel insurance.

1           (11) “Travel administrator” means a person who directly or indirectly  
2           underwrites, collects charges, collateral, or premiums from, or adjusts or settles  
3           claims on residents of this State, in connection with travel insurance, except  
4           that a person shall not be considered a travel administrator if that person’s only  
5           actions that would otherwise cause it to be considered a travel administrator  
6           are among the following:

7                   (A) a person working for a travel administrator to the extent that the  
8                   person’s activities are subject to the supervision and control of the travel  
9                   administrator;

10                   (B) an insurance producer selling insurance or engaged in  
11                   administrative and claims-related activities within the scope of the producer’s  
12                   license;

13                   (C) a travel retailer offering and disseminating travel insurance and  
14                   registered under the license of a limited lines travel insurance producer in  
15                   accordance with this chapter;

16                   (D) an individual adjusting or settling claims in the normal course of  
17                   that individual’s practice or employment as an attorney-at-law and who does  
18                   not collect charges or premiums in connection with insurance coverage; or

19                   (E) a business entity that is affiliated with a licensed insurer while  
20                   acting as a travel administrator for the direct and assumed insurance business  
21                   of an affiliated insurer.

1           (12) “Travel assistance services” means noninsurance services for which  
2           the consumer is not indemnified based on a fortuitous event and where  
3           providing the service does not result in transfer or shifting of risk that would  
4           constitute the business of insurance. Travel assistance services include the  
5           provision of security advisories, destination information, vaccination and  
6           immunization information services, travel reservation services, entertainment,  
7           activity, or event planning, translation assistance, emergency messaging,  
8           international legal and medical referrals, medical case monitoring,  
9           coordination of transportation arrangements, emergency cash transfer  
10           assistance, medical prescription replacement assistance, passport and travel  
11           document replacement assistance, lost luggage assistance, or concierge  
12           services. Travel assistance services are not insurance and not related to  
13           insurance.

14           (13)(A) “Travel insurance” means insurance coverage for personal risks  
15           incident to planned travel, including:

16                   (i) interruption or cancellation of a trip or event;

17                   (ii) loss of baggage or personal effects;

18                   (iii) damages to accommodations or rental vehicles;

19                   (iv) sickness, accident, disability, or death occurring during travel;

20                   (v) emergency evacuation;

21                   (vi) repatriation of remains; or

1                    (vii) any other contractual obligations to indemnify or pay a  
2                    specified amount to the traveler upon determinable contingencies related to  
3                    travel as approved by the Commissioner.

4                    (B) Travel insurance does not include major medical plans that  
5                    provide comprehensive medical protection for travelers with trips lasting six  
6                    months or longer, including, for example, those working overseas as  
7                    expatriates, or any other product that requires a specific insurance producer  
8                    license.

9                    (14) “Travel protection plan” means a plan that provides one or more  
10                   of the following: travel insurance; travel assistance services; or cancellation  
11                   fee waivers.

12                   (15) “Travel retailer” means a business entity that makes, arranges, or  
13                   offers travel services and may offer and disseminate travel insurance as a  
14                   service to its customers on behalf of and under the direction of a limited lines  
15                   travel insurance producer.

16                   § 7124. LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

17                   (a) The Commissioner may issue to an individual or a business entity that  
18                   has complied with the requirements of this chapter and filed an application for  
19                   such limited lines travel insurance producer license in a form and manner  
20                   prescribed by the Commissioner, a limited lines travel insurance producer  
21                   license, which authorizes the limited lines travel insurance producer to sell,

1 solicit, or negotiate travel insurance through a licensed insurer. A person may  
2 not act as a limited lines travel insurance producer or travel retailer unless  
3 properly licensed or registered, respectively.

4 (b) A travel retailer may offer and disseminate travel insurance under a  
5 limited lines travel insurance producer license only if the following conditions  
6 are met:

7 (1) The limited lines travel insurance producer or travel retailer provides  
8 to purchasers of travel insurance:

9 (A) a description of the material terms or the actual material terms of  
10 the insurance coverage at the time of purchase;

11 (B) a description of the process for filing a claim;

12 (C) a description of the review and cancellation process for the travel  
13 insurance policy; and

14 (D) the identity and contact information of the insurer and limited  
15 lines travel insurance producer.

16 (2) At the time of licensure, the limited lines travel insurance producer  
17 has established and maintains a register on a form prescribed by the  
18 Commissioner of each travel retailer that offers travel insurance on the limited  
19 lines travel insurance producer's behalf. The register shall be maintained and  
20 updated annually by the limited lines travel insurance producer and shall  
21 include the name, address, and contact information of the travel retailer and an

1 officer or person who directs or controls the travel retailer’s operations, and the  
2 travel retailer’s Federal Tax Identification Number. The limited lines travel  
3 insurance producer shall submit such register within 30 days of request by the  
4 Commissioner. The limited lines travel insurance producer shall also certify  
5 that the travel retailer registered complies with 18 U.S.C. § 1033. The grounds  
6 for the suspension and revocation and the penalties applicable to resident  
7 insurance producers under 8 V.S.A. § 4804 shall be applicable to the limited  
8 lines travel insurance producers and travel retailers.

9 (3) The limited lines travel insurance producer has designated one of its  
10 employees who is a licensed individual producer as the person responsible for  
11 the limited lines travel insurance producer’s compliance with the travel  
12 insurance laws, rules, and regulations of the State. This person shall be  
13 identified as the Designated Responsible Licensed Producer (DRLP).

14 (4) The DRLP, president, secretary, treasurer, and any other officer or  
15 person who directs or controls the limited lines travel insurance producer’s  
16 insurance operations has complied with the fingerprinting requirements  
17 applicable to insurance producers in the resident state of the limited lines travel  
18 insurance producer.

19 (5) The limited lines travel insurance producer has paid all applicable  
20 insurance producer licensing fees as set forth in section 4800 of this title.

1           (6) The limited lines travel insurance producer requires each employee  
2           and authorized representative of the travel retailer whose duties include  
3           offering and disseminating travel insurance to receive a program of instruction  
4           or training, which may be subject to review by the Commissioner. The  
5           training material shall, at a minimum, contain instructions on the types of  
6           insurance offered, ethical sales practices, and required disclosures to  
7           prospective customers.

8           (c) Any travel retailer offering or disseminating travel insurance shall make  
9           available to prospective purchasers brochures or other written materials that  
10           have been approved by the travel insurer. Such materials shall include  
11           information that, at a minimum:

12           (1) provides the identity and contact information of the insurer and the  
13           limited lines travel insurance producer;

14           (2) explains that the purchase of travel insurance is not required in order  
15           to purchase any other product or service from the travel retailer; and

16           (3) explains that an unlicensed travel retailer is permitted to provide  
17           general information about the insurance offered by the travel retailer, including  
18           a description of the coverage and price, but is not qualified or authorized to  
19           answer technical questions about the terms and conditions of the insurance  
20           offered by the travel retailer or to evaluate the adequacy of the customer's  
21           existing insurance coverage.

1        (d) A travel retailer’s employee or authorized representative who is not  
2        licensed as an insurance producer may not:

3            (1) evaluate or interpret the technical terms, benefits, or conditions of  
4        the offered travel insurance coverage;

5            (2) evaluate or provide advice concerning a prospective purchaser’s  
6        existing insurance coverage; or

7            (3) hold themselves out as a licensed insurer, licensed producer, or  
8        insurance expert.

9        (e) A travel retailer whose insurance-related activities, and those of its  
10       employees and authorized representatives, are limited to offering and  
11       disseminating travel insurance on behalf of and under the direction of a limited  
12       lines travel insurance producer meeting the conditions stated in this section is  
13       authorized to do so and receive related compensation for such services, upon  
14       registration by the limited lines travel insurance producer as described in  
15       subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

16       (f) As the insurer’s designee, a limited lines travel insurance producer is  
17       responsible for the acts of each of its registered travel retailers related to the  
18       offer and dissemination of travel insurance and shall use reasonable means to  
19       ensure the travel retailer’s compliance with this chapter.

20       (g) Any person licensed in a major line of authority as an insurance  
21       producer is authorized to sell, solicit, and negotiate travel insurance. A

1 property and casualty insurance producer is not required to become appointed  
2 by an insurer in order to sell, solicit, or negotiate travel insurance.

3 (h) The limited lines travel insurance producer and any travel retailer  
4 offering and disseminating travel insurance under a limited lines travel  
5 insurance producer license shall be subject to the provisions of sections 13 and  
6 4804 and chapter 129 of this title.

7 § 7125. PREMIUM TAX

8 (a) A travel insurer shall pay premium tax, as provided in 32 V.S.A.  
9 § 8551, on travel insurance premiums paid by any of the following:

10 (1) a primary policyholder who is a resident of this State;

11 (2) a primary certificate holder who is a resident of this State who elects  
12 coverage under a group travel insurance policy; or

13 (3) a blanket travel insurance policyholder that is a resident in or has its  
14 principal place of business or the principal place of business of an affiliate or  
15 subsidiary that has purchased blanket travel insurance in this State for eligible  
16 blanket travel insurance group members, subject to any apportionment rules  
17 that apply to the insurer across multiple taxing jurisdictions or that permit the  
18 insurer to allocate premium on an apportioned basis in a reasonable and  
19 equitable manner in those jurisdictions.

20 (b) A travel insurer shall:

1           (1) document the state of residence or principal place of business of the  
2           policyholder or certificate holder, as required in subsection (a) of this section;

3           and

4           (2) report as premium only the amount allocable to travel insurance and  
5           not any amounts received for travel assistance services or cancellation fee  
6           waivers.

7           § 7126. TRAVEL PROTECTION PLANS

8           A travel protection plan may be offered for one price for the combined  
9           features that the travel protection plan offers in this State if:

10           (1) the travel protection plan clearly discloses to the consumer, at or  
11           prior to the time of purchase, that it includes travel insurance, travel assistance  
12           services, or cancellation fee waivers, as applicable, and provides information  
13           and an opportunity, at or prior to the time of purchase, for the consumer to  
14           obtain additional information regarding the features and pricing of each;

15           (2) the person offering the travel protection plan that includes a travel  
16           insurance policy complies with section 7127 of this title; and

17           (3) the fulfillment materials:

18           (A) describe and delineate the travel insurance, travel assistance  
19           services, and cancellation fee waivers in the travel protection plan; and

1           (B) include the travel insurance disclosures and the contact  
2           information for persons providing travel assistance services and cancellation  
3           fee waivers, as applicable.

4           § 7127. SALES PRACTICES

5           (a) All persons offering travel insurance to residents of this State are  
6           subject to chapter 129 of this title, except as otherwise provided in this section.  
7           In the event of a conflict between this chapter and other provisions of this title  
8           regarding the sale and marketing of travel insurance and travel protection  
9           plans, the provisions of this chapter shall control.

10          (b) Offering or selling a travel insurance policy that could never result in  
11          payment of any claims for any insured under the policy is an unfair trade  
12          practice under chapter 129 of this title.

13          (c)(1) All documents provided to consumers prior to the purchase of travel  
14          insurance, including sales materials, advertising materials, and marketing  
15          materials, shall be consistent with the travel insurance policy itself, including  
16          forms, endorsements, policies, rate filings, and certificates of insurance.

17          (2) For a travel insurance policy or certificate that contains preexisting  
18          condition exclusions:

19                 (A) information and an opportunity to learn more about the  
20                 preexisting condition exclusions shall be provided prior to the time of purchase  
21                 and in the coverage’s fulfillment materials; and

1           (B) the policy or certificate may only exclude preexisting conditions  
2           for which medical advice or treatment was recommended by or received from  
3           a health care provider within a six-month period preceding the effective date of  
4           coverage.

5           (3)(A) The fulfillment materials and the information described in  
6           subdivisions 7124(b)(1)(B)–(D) of this title shall be provided to a policyholder  
7           or certificate holder as soon as practicable following the purchase of a travel  
8           protection plan. Unless the insured has either started a covered trip or filed a  
9           claim under the travel insurance coverage, a policyholder or certificate holder  
10           may cancel a policy or certificate for a full refund of the travel protection plan  
11           price from the date of purchase of a travel protection plan until at least:

12                   (i) 15 days following the date of delivery of the travel protection  
13                   plan’s fulfillment materials by U.S. mail; or

14                   (ii) 10 days following the date of delivery of the travel protection  
15                   plan’s fulfillment materials by means other than U.S. mail.

16           (B) As used in this subdivision, “delivery” means handing fulfillment  
17           materials to the policyholder or certificate holder or sending fulfillment  
18           materials by U.S. mail or electronic means to the policyholder or certificate  
19           holder.

1           (5) A travel insurer shall disclose in the policy documentation and  
2           fulfillment materials whether the travel insurance is primary or secondary to  
3           other applicable coverage.

4           (6) Where travel insurance is marketed directly to a consumer through  
5           an insurer’s website or by others through an aggregator site, it shall not be an  
6           unfair trade practice or other violation of law where an accurate summary or  
7           short description of coverage is provided on the web page, provided the  
8           consumer has access to the full provisions of the policy through electronic  
9           means.

10          (d) A person offering, soliciting, or negotiating travel insurance or travel  
11          protection plans on an individual or group basis may not do so by using  
12          negative option or opt out, which would require a consumer to take an  
13          affirmative action to deselect coverage, such as by unchecking a box on an  
14          electronic form, when the consumer purchases a trip.

15          (e) Marketing blanket travel insurance coverage as free is an unfair trade  
16          practice under chapter 129 of this title.

17          (f) Where a consumer’s destination jurisdiction requires insurance  
18          coverage, it shall not be an unfair trade practice to require that a consumer  
19          choose between the following options as a condition of purchasing a trip or  
20          travel package:

1           (1) purchasing the coverage required by the destination jurisdiction  
2           through the travel retailer or limited lines travel insurance producer supplying  
3           the trip or travel package; or

4           (2) agreeing to obtain and provide proof of coverage that meets the  
5           destination jurisdiction’s requirements prior to departure.

6           (g) For any travel insurance policy or certificate that provides coverage for  
7           sickness, sickness shall include any mental disorder as defined by the  
8           American Psychiatric Association DSM-5, or its current equivalent that is  
9           diagnosed or treated by a properly qualified medical professional.

10           § 7128. TRAVEL ADMINISTRATORS

11           (a) A person shall not act or represent themselves as a travel administrator for  
12           travel insurance in this State unless that person:

13           (1) is a licensed property and casualty insurance producer in this State  
14           for activities permitted under that producer license;

15           (2) holds a valid managing general agent license in this State; or

16           (3) holds a valid third-party administrator license in this State.

17           (b) A travel administrator and its employees are exempt from the licensing  
18           requirements of section 4803 of this title for travel insurance it administers.

19           (c) An insurer is responsible for the acts of a travel administrator  
20           administering travel insurance underwritten by the insurer and is responsible  
21           for ensuring that the travel administrator maintains all books and records

1 relevant to the insurer to be made available by the travel administrator to the  
2 Commissioner upon request.

3 § 7129. POLICY

4 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, travel  
5 insurance shall be classified and filed for purposes of rates and forms under an  
6 inland marine line of insurance; provided, however, that travel insurance that  
7 provides coverage for sickness, accident, disability, or death occurring during  
8 travel, either exclusively or in conjunction with related coverages such as  
9 emergency evacuation or repatriation of remains, or incidental limited property  
10 and casualty benefits such as baggage or trip cancellation, may be filed under  
11 either an accident and health line of insurance or an inland marine line of  
12 insurance.

13 (b) Travel insurance may be provided under an individual, group, or  
14 blanket policy.

15 (c) Eligibility and underwriting standards for travel insurance may be  
16 developed and provided based on travel protection plans designed for  
17 individual or identified marketing or distribution channels, provided those  
18 standards also meet the State’s underwriting standards for inland marine.

19 § 7130. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

20 The Commissioner may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this  
21 chapter.

1 Sec. 11. 8 V.S.A. § 4813i(c) is amended to read:

2 (c) A person who applies for a limited lines travel insurance producer  
3 license ~~for travel accident or travel baggage insurance~~ under chapter 148 of  
4 this title shall not be required to be examined by the Commissioner.

5 Sec. 12. 8 V.S.A. § 3301(a)(11) is added to read:

6 (11) “Inland marine insurance” means any insurance that is defined by  
7 statute, rule, or general custom as inland marine insurance.

8 \* \* \* Captive Insurance \* \* \*

9 Sec. 13. 8 V.S.A. § 6007(c)(2) is amended to read:

10 (2) in order to provide sufficient detail to support the premium tax  
11 return, the ~~pure~~ captive insurance company, ~~association captive insurance~~  
12 ~~company, sponsored captive insurance company, or industrial insured captive~~  
13 ~~insurance company~~ shall file prior to March 15 of each year for each calendar  
14 year-end, ~~pages 1, 2, 3, and 5~~ the premium schedule of the “Vermont Captive  
15 Insurance Company Annual Report–~~Short Form~~” ~~verified by oath of two of its~~  
16 ~~executive officers.~~

17 Sec. 14. 8 V.S.A. § 6038 is amended to read:

18 § 6038. DELINQUENCY OF SPONSORED CAPTIVE INSURANCE

19 COMPANIES

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of chapter  
2 145 of this title shall apply in full to a sponsored captive insurance company  
3 and to each of its protected cells.

4 (b) Upon any order of supervision, rehabilitation, or liquidation of a  
5 sponsored captive insurance company or any of its protected cells, the receiver  
6 shall manage the assets and liabilities of the sponsored captive insurance  
7 company or any of its protected cells pursuant to the provisions of this  
8 subchapter.

9 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 145 of this title to the  
10 contrary:

11 (1) In connection with the conservation, rehabilitation, or liquidation of  
12 a sponsored captive insurance company or any of its protected cells, the assets  
13 and liabilities of a protected cell shall at all times be kept separate from, and  
14 shall not be commingled with, those of other protected cells and the sponsored  
15 captive insurance company.

16 (2) The assets of a protected cell may not be used to pay any expenses or  
17 claims other than those attributable to such protected cell.

18 (3) Unless the sponsor consents and the Commissioner has granted prior  
19 written approval, the assets of the sponsored captive insurance company's  
20 general account shall not be used to pay any expenses or claims attributable  
21 solely to a protected cell or protected cells of the sponsored captive insurance

1 company. In the event that the assets of the sponsored captive insurance  
2 company's general account are used to pay expenses or claims attributable  
3 solely to a protected cell or protected cells of the sponsored captive insurance  
4 company, the sponsor is not required to contribute additional capital and  
5 surplus to the sponsored captive insurance company's general account,  
6 notwithstanding the provisions of section 6004 of this title.

7 (4) A sponsored captive insurance company's capital and surplus shall  
8 at all times be available to pay any expenses of or claims against the sponsored  
9 captive insurance company.

10 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 145 of this title or any other  
11 provision of law to the contrary, and, in addition to the provisions of this  
12 section, in the event of an insolvency of a sponsored captive insurance  
13 company or any of its protected cells where the Commissioner determines that  
14 one or more protected cells remain solvent, the Commissioner may separate  
15 such cells from the sponsored captive insurance company and, on application  
16 of the sponsor, may allow for the conversion of such protected cells into one or  
17 more new or existing sponsored captive insurance companies, or one or more  
18 other captive insurance companies, pursuant to a plan or plans of operation  
19 approved by the Commissioner.

20 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 145 of this title or any other  
21 provision of law to the contrary, and in addition to the provisions of this

1 section, in the event of an insolvency of one or more protected cells of a  
2 sponsored captive insurance company, the Commissioner may separate such  
3 cell or cells from the sponsored captive insurance company and may allow for  
4 the conversion of such protected cell or cells into one or more new or existing  
5 sponsored captive insurance companies, or one or more other captive insurance  
6 companies, pursuant to a plan or plans of operation approved by the  
7 Commissioner.

8 Sec. 15. 8 V.S.A. § 6032(7)(C) is amended to read:

9 (C) that insures the risks only of its participants or, subject to  
10 Commissioner approval, other parties unaffiliated with a participant, through  
11 separate participant contracts; and

12 Sec. 16. 8 V.S.A. § 6034 is amended to read:

13 § 6034. PROTECTED CELLS

14 \* \* \*

15 ~~(7) Each sponsored captive insurance company shall annually file with~~  
16 ~~the Commissioner such financial reports as the Commissioner shall require,~~  
17 ~~which shall include accounting statements detailing the financial experience of~~  
18 ~~each protected cell.~~

19 ~~(8)(7)~~ Each sponsored captive insurance company shall notify the  
20 Commissioner in writing within 10 business days of any protected cell that is  
21 insolvent or otherwise unable to meet its claim or expense obligations.

1           ~~(9)~~(8) No participant contract shall take effect without the  
2           Commissioner’s prior written approval, and the addition of each new protected  
3           cell and withdrawal of any participant or termination of any existing protected  
4           cell shall constitute a change in the business plan requiring the Commissioner’s  
5           prior written approval.

6           ~~(10)~~(9) If required by the Commissioner, in his or her discretion, the  
7           business written by a sponsored captive, with respect to each cell, shall be:

8                   (A) Fronted by an insurance company licensed under the laws of any  
9           state.

10                   (B) Reinsured by a reinsurer authorized or approved by the State of  
11           Vermont.

12                   (C) Secured by a trust fund in the United States for the benefit of  
13           policyholders and claimants or funded by an irrevocable letter of credit or  
14           other arrangement that is acceptable to the Commissioner. The Commissioner  
15           may require the sponsored captive to increase the funding of any security  
16           arrangement established under this subdivision. If the form of security is a  
17           letter of credit, the letter of credit must be issued or confirmed by a bank  
18           approved by the Commissioner. A trust maintained pursuant to this  
19           subdivision shall be established in a form and upon such terms approved by the  
20           Commissioner.

1 Sec. 17. 8 V.S.A. § 6034f is added to read:

2 § 6034f. ANNUAL REPORT; BOOKS AND RECORDS

3 (a) For purposes of subsection 6007(b) of this chapter:

4 (1) Each sponsored captive insurance company shall annually file with  
5 the Commissioner such financial reports as the Commissioner requires, which  
6 shall include accounting statements detailing the financial experience of each  
7 protected cell.

8 (2) Unless otherwise approved in advance by the Commissioner, a  
9 sponsored captive insurance company shall maintain its books, records,  
10 documents, accounts, vouchers, and agreements in this State. A sponsored  
11 captive insurance company shall make its books, records, documents, accounts,  
12 vouchers, and agreements available for inspection by the Commissioner at any  
13 time. A sponsored captive insurance company shall keep its books and records  
14 in such manner that its financial condition, affairs, and operations can be  
15 readily ascertained and so that the Commissioner may readily verify its  
16 financial statements and determine its compliance with this chapter.

17 (3) Unless otherwise approved in advance by the Commissioner, all  
18 original books, records, documents, accounts, vouchers, and agreements shall  
19 be preserved and kept available in this State for the purpose of examination  
20 and inspection and until such time as the Commissioner approves the  
21 destruction or other disposition of such books, records, documents, accounts,

1 vouchers, and agreements. If the Commissioner approves the keeping of the  
2 items listed in this subdivision outside this State, the sponsored captive  
3 insurance company shall maintain in this State a complete and true copy of  
4 each such original. Books, records, documents, accounts, vouchers, and  
5 agreements may be photographed, reproduced on film, or stored and  
6 reproduced electronically.

7 Sec. 18. 8 V.S.A. § 6002(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) Any captive insurance company, when permitted by its articles of  
9 association, charter, or other organizational document, may apply to the  
10 Commissioner for a license to do any and all insurance comprised in  
11 subdivisions 3301(a)(1), (2), (3)(A)–(C), (E)–(Q), and (4)–(9) of this title and  
12 may grant annuity contracts as defined in section 3717 of this title, and may  
13 accept or transfer risk by means of a parametric contract; provided, however,  
14 that:

15 \* \* \*

16 (10) Any captive insurance company that transfers risk by means of a  
17 parametric contract shall comply with all applicable State and federal laws and  
18 regulations. As used in this subdivision, “parametric contract” means a  
19 contract to make a payment upon the occurrence of one or more specified  
20 triggering events without proof of loss or obligation to indemnify. A  
21 parametric contract is not an insurance contract.

1 Sec. 19. 8 V.S.A. § 6006a(b) is amended to read:

2 (b) When such merger ~~or consolidation~~ has been effected as provided in  
3 this section:

4 \* \* \*

5 \* \* \* Vermont Insurance Data Security Law \* \* \*

6 Sec. 20. 8 V.S.A. § 4728 is added to read:

7 § 4728. INSURANCE DATA SECURITY

8 (a) Title. This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Vermont  
9 Insurance Data Security Law.”

10 (b) Construction.

11 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this section establishes  
12 the exclusive State standards applicable to licensees for data security and for  
13 the investigation of a cybersecurity event.

14 (2) This section shall not be construed to change any aspect of the  
15 Security Breach Notice Act, 9 V.S.A. § 2435.

16 (3) This section may not be construed to create or imply a private cause  
17 of action for violation of its provisions, nor may it be construed to curtail a  
18 private cause of action which would otherwise exist in the absence of this  
19 section.

20 (4) A licensee in compliance with N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs.  
21 Title 23, section 500, Cybersecurity Requirements for Financial Services

1 Companies, effective March 1, 2017, shall be considered to meet the  
2 requirements of this section, provided that the licensee submits a written  
3 statement to the Commissioner certifying such compliance.

4 (c) Definitions. As used in this section:

5 (1) “Authorized person” means a person known to and screened by the  
6 licensee and determined to be necessary and appropriate to have access to the  
7 nonpublic information held by the licensee and its information systems.

8 (2) “Consumer” means an individual, including but not limited to an  
9 applicant, policyholder, insured, beneficiary, claimant, or certificate holder,  
10 who is a resident of this State and whose nonpublic information is in a  
11 licensee’s possession, custody, or control.

12 (3) “Cybersecurity event” means an event resulting in unauthorized  
13 access to or disruption or misuse of an information system or nonpublic  
14 information stored on such information system. The term “cybersecurity  
15 event” does not include:

16 (A) the unauthorized acquisition of encrypted nonpublic information  
17 if the encryption, process, or key is not also acquired, released, or used without  
18 authorization; or

19 (B) an event with regard to which the licensee has determined that  
20 the nonpublic information accessed by an unauthorized person has not been  
21 used or released and has been returned or destroyed.

1           (4) “Encrypted” means the transformation of data into a form that  
2           results in a low probability of assigning meaning without the use of a  
3           protective process or key.

4           (5) “Information security program” means the administrative, technical,  
5           and physical safeguards that a licensee uses to access, collect, distribute,  
6           process, protect, store, use, transmit, dispose of, or otherwise handle nonpublic  
7           information.

8           (6) “Information system” means a discrete set of electronic information  
9           resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing,  
10           dissemination, or disposition of electronic information, as well as any  
11           specialized system such as an industrial/process controls system, telephone  
12           switching and private branch exchange system, or environmental control  
13           system.

14           (7) “Licensee” means a person licensed, authorized to operate, or  
15           registered or required to be licensed, authorized, or registered pursuant to the  
16           insurance laws of this State, but shall not include:

17                   (A) a captive insurance company;

18                   (B) a purchasing group or risk retention group chartered; or

19                   (C) a licensee domiciled in a jurisdiction other than this State or a  
20           person that is acting as an assuming insurer for a licensee domiciled in this  
21           State.

1           (8) “Multi-factor authentication” means authentication through  
2           verification of at least two of the following types of authentication factors:

3                   (A) a knowledge factor, such as a password;

4                   (B) a possession factor, such as a token or text message on a mobile  
5           phone; or

6                   (C) an inherence factor, such as a biometric characteristic.

7           (9) “Nonpublic information” means information that is not publicly  
8           available information and is:

9                   (A) business-related information of a licensee, the tampering with  
10           which, or unauthorized disclosure, access, or use of which would cause a  
11           material adverse impact to the business, operations, or security of the licensee;

12                   (B) information concerning a consumer that, because of name,  
13           number, personal mark, or other identifier, can be used to identify such  
14           consumer, in combination with any one or more of the following data  
15           elements:

16                           (i) Social Security number;

17                           (ii) driver’s license number or nondriver identification card  
18           number;

19                           (iii) individual taxpayer identification number;

20                           (iv) passport number;

21                           (v) military identification card number;

1                    (vi) financial account number or credit or debit card number;

2                    (vii) security code, access code, or password that would permit

3 access to a consumer’s financial account; or

4                    (viii) biometric record;

5                    (C) information or data, except age or gender, in any form or medium

6 created by or derived from a health care provider or a consumer, that relates to:

7                    (i) the past, present, or future physical, mental, or behavioral

8 health or condition of any consumer or a member of the consumer’s family;

9                    (ii) the provision of health care to any consumer; or

10                   (iii) payment for the provision of health care to any consumer.

11                   (10)(A) “Publicly available information” means information that a

12 licensee has a reasonable basis to believe is lawfully made available to the

13 general public from federal, state, or local government records, widely

14 distributed media, or disclosures to the general public that are required to be

15 made by federal, state, or local law.

16                   (B) As used in this subdivision, a licensee has a “reasonable basis to

17 believe” that information is lawfully made available to the general public if the

18 licensee has taken steps to determine:

19                   (i) that the information is of the type that is available to the

20 general public; and

1                   (ii) whether a consumer can direct that the information not be  
2 made available to the general public and, if so, that the consumer has not done  
3 so.

4                   (11) “Risk assessment” means the risk assessment that each licensee is  
5 required to conduct under subdivision (d)(3) of this section.

6                   (12) “Third-party service provider” means a person, not otherwise  
7 defined as a licensee, that contracts with a licensee to maintain, process, or  
8 store nonpublic information or is otherwise permitted access to nonpublic  
9 information through its provision of services to the licensee.

10                   (d) Information Security Program.

11                   (1) Commensurate with the size and complexity of the licensee, the  
12 nature and scope of the licensee’s activities, including its use of third-party  
13 service providers, and the sensitivity of the nonpublic information used by the  
14 licensee or in the licensee’s possession, custody, or control, each licensee shall  
15 develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive written information  
16 security program that is based on the licensee’s risk assessment and contains  
17 administrative, technical, and physical safeguards for the protection of  
18 nonpublic information and the licensee’s information system.

19                   (2) A licensee’s information security program shall be designed to:

20                   (A) protect the security and confidentiality of nonpublic information  
21 and the security of the information system;

1           (B) protect against any threats or hazards to the security or integrity  
2           of nonpublic information and the information system;

3           (C) protect against unauthorized access to or use of nonpublic  
4           information and minimize the likelihood of harm to any consumer; and

5           (D) define and periodically reevaluate a schedule for retention of  
6           nonpublic information and a mechanism for its destruction when no longer  
7           needed.

8           (3) The licensee shall:

9           (A) designate one or more employees, an affiliate, or an outside  
10          vendor designated to act on behalf of the licensee to be responsible for the  
11          information security program;

12          (B) identify reasonably foreseeable internal or external threats that  
13          could result in unauthorized access, transmission, disclosure, misuse,  
14          alteration, or destruction of nonpublic information, including the security of  
15          information systems and nonpublic information that are accessible to or held  
16          by third-party service providers;

17          (C) assess the likelihood and potential damage of these threats, taking  
18          into consideration the sensitivity of the nonpublic information;

19          (D) assess the sufficiency of policies, procedures, information  
20          systems, and other safeguards in place to manage these threats, including

1 consideration of threats in each relevant area of the licensee’s operations,

2 including:

3 (i) employee training and management;

4 (ii) information systems, including network and software design,

5 as well as information classification, governance, processing, storage,

6 transmission, and disposal; and

7 (iii) detecting, preventing, and responding to attacks, intrusions, or

8 other systems failures; and

9 (E) implement information safeguards to manage the threats

10 identified in its ongoing assessment and, not less than annually, assess the

11 effectiveness of the safeguards’ key controls, systems, and procedures.

12 (4) Based on its risk assessment, the licensee shall:

13 (A) Design its information security program to mitigate the identified

14 risks, commensurate with the size and complexity of the licensee, the nature

15 and scope of the licensee’s activities, including its use of third-party service

16 providers, and the sensitivity of the nonpublic information used by the licensee

17 or in the licensee’s possession, custody, or control.

18 (B) Determine which security measures listed below are appropriate

19 and implement such security measures:

1                   (i) place access controls on information systems, including  
2                   controls to authenticate and permit access only to authorized persons to protect  
3                   against the unauthorized acquisition of nonpublic information;

4                   (ii) identify and manage the data, personnel, devices, systems, and  
5                   facilities that enable the organization to achieve business purposes in  
6                   accordance with their relative importance to business objectives and the  
7                   organization’s risk strategy;

8                   (iii) restrict physical access to nonpublic information to authorized  
9                   persons only;

10                  (iv) protect by encryption or other appropriate means all nonpublic  
11                  information while being transmitted over an external network and all  
12                  nonpublic information stored on a laptop computer or other portable  
13                  computing or storage device or media;

14                  (v) adopt secure development practices for in-house developed  
15                  applications utilized by the licensee and procedures for evaluating, assessing,  
16                  or testing the security of externally developed applications utilized by the  
17                  licensee;

18                  (vi) modify the information system in accordance with the  
19                  licensee’s information security program;

20                  (vii) utilize effective controls, which may include multi-factor  
21                  authentication procedures, for any individual accessing nonpublic information;

1                   (viii) regularly test and monitor systems and procedures to detect  
2                   actual and attempted attacks on or intrusions into information systems;

3                   (ix) include audit trails within the information security program  
4                   designed to detect and respond to cybersecurity events and reconstruct material  
5                   financial transactions sufficient to support normal operations and obligations of  
6                   the licensee;

7                   (x) implement measures to protect against destruction, loss, or  
8                   damage of nonpublic information due to environmental hazards, such as fire  
9                   and water damage or other catastrophes or technological failures; and

10                  (xi) develop, implement, and maintain procedures for the secure  
11                  disposal of nonpublic information in any format.

12                  (C) Include cybersecurity risks in the licensee’s enterprise risk  
13                  management process.

14                  (D) Stay informed regarding emerging threats and vulnerabilities and  
15                  utilize reasonable security measures when sharing information relative to the  
16                  character of the sharing and the type of information shared.

17                  (E) Provide its personnel with cybersecurity awareness training that  
18                  is updated as necessary to reflect risks identified by the licensee in the risk  
19                  assessment.

20                  (5)(A) If the licensee has a board of directors, the board or an  
21                  appropriate committee of the board shall, at a minimum:

1           (i) require the licensee’s executive management or its delegates to  
2           develop, implement, and maintain the licensee’s information security program;

3           (ii) require the licensee’s executive management or its delegates to  
4           report in writing at least annually the following information:

5                   (I) the overall status of the information security program and  
6                   the licensee’s compliance with this section; and

7                   (II) material matters related to the information security  
8                   program, addressing issues such as risk assessment; risk management and  
9                   control decisions; third-party service provider arrangements; results of testing,  
10                  cybersecurity events, or violations and management’s responses thereto; and  
11                  recommendations for changes in the information security program.

12                  (B) If executive management delegates any of its responsibilities  
13                  under subsection (d) of this section, it shall oversee the development,  
14                  implementation, and maintenance of the licensee’s information security  
15                  program prepared by the delegate or delegates and shall receive a report from  
16                  the delegate or delegates complying with the requirements of the report to the  
17                  board of directors.

18                  (6)(A) A licensee shall exercise due diligence in selecting its third-party  
19                  service provider.

20                  (B) A licensee shall require a third-party service provider to  
21                  implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical measures to

1 protect and secure the information systems and nonpublic information that are  
2 accessible to or held by the third-party service provider.

3 (7) A licensee shall monitor, evaluate, and adjust, as appropriate, the  
4 information security program consistent with any relevant changes in  
5 technology, the sensitivity of its nonpublic information, internal or external  
6 threats to information, and the licensee’s own changing business arrangements,  
7 such as mergers and acquisitions, alliances and joint ventures, outsourcing  
8 arrangements, and changes to information systems.

9 (8)(A) As part of its information security program, a licensee shall  
10 establish a written incident response plan designed to promptly respond to and  
11 recover from any cybersecurity event that compromises the confidentiality,  
12 integrity, or availability of nonpublic information in its possession; the  
13 licensee’s information systems; or the continuing functionality of any aspect of  
14 the licensee’s business or operations.

15 (B) The incident response plan shall address the following areas:

16 (i) the internal process for responding to a cybersecurity event;

17 (ii) the goals of the incident response plan;

18 (iii) the definition of clear roles, responsibilities, and levels of  
19 decision-making authority;

20 (iv) external and internal communications and information  
21 sharing;

1                   (v) identification of requirements for the remediation of any  
2                   identified weaknesses in information systems and associated controls;

3                   (vi) documentation and reporting regarding cybersecurity events  
4                   and related incident response activities; and

5                   (vii) the evaluation and revision as necessary of the incident  
6                   response plan following a cybersecurity event.

7                   (9) Annually, each insurer domiciled in this State shall submit to the  
8                   Commissioner a written statement on or before April 15, certifying that the  
9                   insurer is compliant with the requirements established in subsection (d) of this  
10                  section. Each insurer shall maintain for examination by the Commissioner all  
11                  records, schedules, and data supporting this certificate for a period of five  
12                  years. To the extent an insurer has identified areas, systems, or processes that  
13                  require material improvement, updating, or redesign, the insurer shall  
14                  document the identification and the remedial efforts planned and underway to  
15                  address such areas, systems, or processes. Such documentation shall be  
16                  available for inspection by the Commissioner.

17                  (e) Investigation of a Cybersecurity Event.

18                  (1) If the licensee learns that a cybersecurity event has or may have  
19                  occurred, the licensee or an outside vendor or service provider, or both,  
20                  designated to act on behalf of the licensee shall conduct a prompt investigation.

1           (2) During the investigation, the licensee or an outside vendor or service  
2           provider, or both, designated to act on behalf of the licensee shall, at a  
3           minimum, make the best effort to:

4                   (A) determine whether a cybersecurity event has occurred;

5                   (B) assess the nature and scope of the cybersecurity event;

6                   (C) identify any nonpublic information that may have been involved  
7           in the cybersecurity event; and

8                   (D) perform or oversee reasonable measures to restore the security of  
9           the information systems compromised in the cybersecurity event in order to  
10           prevent further unauthorized acquisition, release, or use of nonpublic  
11           information in the licensee’s possession, custody, or control.

12           (3) The licensee shall maintain records concerning all cybersecurity  
13           events for a period of at least five years from the date of the cybersecurity  
14           event and shall produce those records upon demand of the Commissioner.

15           (f) Power of Commissioner.

16           (1) The Commissioner shall have power to examine and investigate into  
17           the affairs of any licensee to determine whether the licensee has been or is  
18           engaged in any conduct in violation of this section. This power is in addition  
19           to the powers the Commissioner has under section 4726 of this title and  
20           9 V.S.A. § 2435(h)(2). Any such investigation or examination shall be  
21           conducted pursuant to section 4726 of this title.

1           (2) Whenever the Commissioner has reason to believe that a licensee  
2           has been or is engaged in conduct in this State that violates this section, the  
3           Commissioner may take action that is necessary or appropriate to enforce the  
4           provisions of this section.

5           (g) Confidentiality.

6           (1) Any documents, materials or other information in the control or  
7           possession of the Commissioner that are furnished by a licensee or an  
8           employee or agent thereof acting on behalf of the licensee pursuant to  
9           subdivision (d)(8) of this section, or that are obtained by the Commissioner in  
10           an investigation or examination pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, shall  
11           be confidential by law and privileged, shall not be subject to 1 V.S.A. §§ 315–  
12           320, shall not be subject to subpoena, and shall not be subject to discovery or  
13           admissible in evidence in any private civil action. However, the Commissioner  
14           is authorized to use the documents, materials, or other information in the  
15           furtherance of any regulatory or legal action brought as a part of the  
16           Commissioner’s duties.

17           (2) Neither the Commissioner nor any person who received documents,  
18           materials, or other information while acting under the authority of the  
19           Commissioner shall be permitted or required to testify in any private civil  
20           action concerning any confidential documents, materials, or information  
21           subject to subdivision (g)(1) of this section.

1           (3) To assist in the performance of the Commissioner’s duties under this  
2           section, the Commissioner may:

3                   (A) share documents, materials, or other information, including  
4                   confidential and privileged documents, materials, or information subject to  
5                   subdivision (g)(1) of this section, with other state, federal, and international  
6                   regulatory agencies, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, its  
7                   affiliates or subsidiaries, and state, federal, and international law enforcement  
8                   authorities, provided that the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the  
9                   confidentiality and privileged status of the document, material, or other  
10                  information shared;

11                   (B) receive documents, materials, or information, including otherwise  
12                   confidential and privileged documents, materials, or information, from the  
13                   National Association of Insurance Commissioners, its affiliates or subsidiaries,  
14                   and from regulatory and law enforcement officials of other foreign or domestic  
15                   jurisdictions, and shall maintain as confidential or privileged any document,  
16                   material, or information received with notice or the understanding that it is  
17                   confidential or privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction that is the source of  
18                   the document, material, or information;

19                   (C) share documents, materials, or other information subject to  
20                   subdivision (g)(1) of this section with a third-party consultant or vendor,  
21                   provided that the consultant agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality

1 and privileged status of the document, material, or other information shared;

2 and

3 (D) enter into agreements governing the sharing and use of  
4 information consistent with this subsection.

5 (4) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of confidentiality in  
6 any document, material, or information shall occur as a result of its disclosure  
7 to the Commissioner under this section or as a result of sharing as authorized  
8 in subdivision (g)(3) of this section.

9 (5) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Commissioner from  
10 releasing final adjudicated actions that are open to public inspection pursuant  
11 to 1 V.S.A. §§ 315–320 to a database or other clearinghouse service  
12 maintained by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners or its  
13 affiliates or subsidiaries.

14 (h) Exceptions.

15 (1) The following exceptions apply to this section:

16 (A) A licensee with fewer than 20 employees, including any  
17 independent contractors, is exempt from subsection (d) of this section.

18 (B) A licensee that is in possession of protected health information  
19 subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996  
20 (HIPAA), Pub. L. No. 104–191, 110 Stat. 1936, that has established and  
21 maintains an information security program pursuant to such statutes and the

1 rules, regulations, procedures, or guidelines established under HIPAA, is  
2 considered to meet the requirements of subsection (d) of this section, provided  
3 that the licensee is compliant with, and annually submits a written statement to,  
4 the Commissioner certifying its compliance with such program. As used in  
5 this section, the definition of “protected health information” is as set forth in  
6 HIPAA and the regulations promulgated under HIPAA and shall be considered  
7 to be a subset of nonpublic information.

8 (C) An employee, agent, representative, or designee of a licensee,  
9 who is also a licensee, is exempt from subsection (d) of this section and need  
10 not develop its own information security program to the extent that the  
11 employee, agent, representative, or designee is covered by the information  
12 security program of the other licensee.

13 (D) A licensee that is affiliated with a financial institution, as defined  
14 in subdivision 11101(32) of this title, or a credit union, as defined in  
15 subdivision 30101(5) of this title, that has established and maintains an  
16 information security program in compliance with the interagency guidelines  
17 establishing standards for safeguarding customer information as set forth in  
18 section 501(b) of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6801 et seq., is  
19 considered to meet the requirements of subsection (d) of this section, provided  
20 that the licensee produces, upon request, documentation satisfactory to the  
21 Commissioner that independently validates the affiliated financial institution’s

1 or credit union’s adoption of an information security program that satisfies the  
2 interagency guidelines.

3 (2) In the event that a licensee ceases to qualify for an exception, such  
4 licensee shall have 180 days to comply with this section.

5 (i) Penalties. In the case of a violation of this section, a licensee may be  
6 penalized in accordance with section 3661 or 4726 of this title, as appropriate.

7 (j) Effective date. This section shall take effect on January 1, 2023. A  
8 licensee shall have one year from the effective date of this section to  
9 implement subsection (d) of this section, other than subdivision (d)(6) of this  
10 section. A licensee shall have two years from the effective date of this section  
11 to implement subdivision (d)(6) of this section.

12 \* \* \* Vermont Whistleblower Award and Protection Act \* \* \*

13 Sec. 21. 9 V.S.A. § 5616 is amended to read:

14 § 5616. VERMONT FINANCIAL SERVICES EDUCATION AND VICTIM  
15 RESTITUTION SPECIAL FUND

16 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide:

17 (1) funds for the purposes specified in subsection 5601(d) of this title;

18 ~~and~~

19 (2) restitution assistance to victims of securities violations who:

1 (A) were awarded restitution in a final order issued by the  
2 Commissioner or were awarded restitution in the final order in a legal action  
3 initiated by the Commissioner;

4 (B) have not received the full amount of restitution ordered before  
5 the application for restitution assistance is due; and

6 (C) demonstrate to the Commissioner’s satisfaction that there is no  
7 reasonable likelihood that they will receive the full amount of restitution in the  
8 future; and

9 (3) funds for the purposes specified in section 5617 of this title.

10 \* \* \*

11 (f) Vermont Financial Services Education, ~~and~~ Victim Restitution, and  
12 Whistleblower Award Special Fund. The Vermont Financial Services  
13 Education, ~~and~~ Victim Restitution, and Whistleblower Award Special Fund,  
14 pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, is created to provide funds for  
15 the purposes specified in this section, ~~and~~ in subsection 5601(d) of this title,  
16 and in section 5617 of this title. All monies received by the State for use in  
17 financial services education initiatives pursuant to subsection 5601(d) of this  
18 title, ~~or~~ in providing uncompensated victims restitution pursuant to this section,  
19 or in providing whistleblower awards pursuant to section 5617 of this title shall  
20 be deposited into the Fund. The Commissioner may direct a party to deposit a  
21 sum not to exceed 15 percent of the total settlement amount into the Fund in

1 conjunction with settling a State securities law enforcement matter. Interest  
2 earned on the Fund shall be retained in the Fund.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 22. 9 V.S.A. § 5617 is added to read:

5 § 5617. VERMONT WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD AND PROTECTION

6 ACT

7 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide:

8 (1) protection from retaliation for whistleblowers and internal reporters  
9 who comply with the requirements in this section; and

10 (2) monetary awards to whistleblowers who voluntarily provide original  
11 information that leads to the successful enforcement of an administrative or  
12 judicial action under chapter 150 of this title.

13 (b) Definitions. As used in this section,

14 (1) “Monetary sanction” means any monies, including penalties,  
15 disgorgement, and interest ordered to be paid as a result of an administrative or  
16 judicial action.

17 (2) “Original information” means information that is:

18 (A) derived from the independent knowledge or analysis of a  
19 whistleblower;

20 (B) not already known to the Commissioner from any other source,  
21 unless the whistleblower is the original source of the information;

1           (C) not exclusively derived from an allegation made in an  
2           administrative or judicial hearing; in a governmental report, hearing, audit, or  
3           investigation; or from the news media, unless the whistleblower is the source  
4           of the information; and

5           (D) provided to the Commissioner for the first time after the date of  
6           the enactment of this section.

7           (3) “Whistleblower” means an individual who, alone or jointly with  
8           others, provides the State or other law enforcement agency with information  
9           pursuant to the provisions set forth in this section, and the information relates  
10          to a possible violation of state or federal securities laws, including any rules or  
11          regulations adopted or promulgated under such laws, that has occurred, is  
12          ongoing, or is about to occur.

13          (c) Authority to make a whistleblower award. Subject to the provisions of  
14          this section, the Commissioner may award an amount to one or more  
15          whistleblowers who voluntarily provide, in writing, in the form and manner  
16          required by the Commissioner, original information that leads to the successful  
17          enforcement of an administrative or judicial action under chapter 150 of this  
18          title.

19          (d) Anonymous whistleblower complaints. Any individual who  
20          anonymously makes a claim for a whistleblower award shall be represented by  
21          counsel if the individual anonymously submits the information upon which the

1 claim is based. Prior to the payment of an award, a previously anonymous  
2 whistleblower shall disclose the whistleblower’s identity and provide such  
3 other information as the Commissioner may require, directly or through  
4 counsel for the whistleblower. Failure to provide such information shall be a  
5 basis to deny compensation under this section.

6 (e) Amount of a whistleblower award. If the Commissioner determines to  
7 make one or more awards under this section, the aggregate amount of awards  
8 that may be awarded in connection with an administrative or judicial action  
9 may not be less than 10 percent nor more than 30 percent of the monetary  
10 sanctions imposed and collected in the related administrative or judicial action.

11 (f) Discretion to determine the amount of a whistleblower award. The  
12 determination of the amount of an award made under this section shall be in  
13 the discretion of the Commissioner consistent with subsections (e) and (h) of  
14 this section.

15 (g) Source of payment of whistleblower award. Any whistleblower awards  
16 paid under this section shall be paid from the fund established in section 5616  
17 of this title.

18 (h) Factors used to determine the amount of a whistleblower award. In  
19 determining the amount of an award under this section, the Commissioner shall  
20 consider:

- 1           (1) the significance of the original information provided by the  
2           whistleblower to the success of the administrative or judicial action;
- 3           (2) the degree of assistance provided by the whistleblower in connection  
4           with the administrative or judicial action;
- 5           (3) the programmatic interest of the Commissioner in deterring  
6           violations of the securities laws by making awards to whistleblowers who  
7           provide original information that leads to the successful enforcement of such  
8           laws; and
- 9           (4) any other factors the Commissioner considers relevant.
- 10          (i) Disqualification from award. The Commissioner shall not provide an  
11          award to a whistleblower under this section if the whistleblower:
- 12               (1) is convicted of a crime in connection with the administrative or  
13               judicial action for which the whistleblower otherwise could receive an award;
- 14               (2) acquires the original information through the performance of an  
15               audit of financial statements required under the securities laws and for whom  
16               providing the original information violates 15 U.S.C. § 78j-1;
- 17               (3) fails to timely submit information to the Commissioner in such form  
18               as the Commissioner may prescribe;
- 19               (4) knowingly or recklessly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent  
20               statement or representation as part of, or in connection with, the original

1 information provided or the administrative or judicial proceeding for which the  
2 original information was provided;

3 (5) in the whistleblower’s submission, its other dealings with the  
4 Commissioner, or in its dealings with another authority in connection with a  
5 possible violation or related action, knowingly or recklessly makes any false,  
6 fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation or uses or provides any  
7 false writing or document knowing that or having a reckless disregard as to  
8 whether it contains any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry;

9 (6) has a legal duty to report the original information to the  
10 Commissioner;

11 (7) is, or was at the time the whistleblower acquired the original  
12 information submitted to the Commissioner, a member, officer, or employee of  
13 the Department of Financial Regulation, the Securities and Exchange  
14 Commission, any other state securities regulatory authority, a self-regulatory  
15 organization, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or any law  
16 enforcement organization;

17 (8) is, or was at the time the whistleblower acquired the original  
18 information submitted to the Commissioner, a member, officer, or employee of  
19 a foreign government, any political subdivision, department, agency, or  
20 instrumentality of a foreign government, or any other foreign financial  
21 regulatory authority as that term is defined in 15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(52);

1           (9) is the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of, or resides in the same  
2           household as, the Commissioner or an employee of the Department of  
3           Financial Regulation; or

4           (10) directly or indirectly acquires the original information provided to  
5           the Commissioner from a person:

6           (A) who is subject to subdivision (i)(2) of this section, unless the  
7           information is not excluded from that person’s use, or provides the  
8           Commissioner with information about possible violations involving that  
9           person;

10           (B) who is a person described in subdivision (i)(7), (8), or (9) of this  
11           section; or

12           (C) with the intent to evade any provision of this section.

13           (j) Protection of whistleblowers and internal reporters.

14           (1) No employer may terminate, discharge, demote, suspend, threaten,  
15           harass, directly or indirectly, or in any other manner retaliate against, an  
16           individual because of any lawful act done by the individual:

17           (A) in providing information to the State or other law enforcement  
18           agency concerning a possible violation of state or federal securities laws,  
19           including any rules or regulations adopted or promulgated under such laws,  
20           that has occurred, is ongoing, or is about to occur;

1           (B) in initiating, testifying in, or assisting in any investigation or  
2           administrative or judicial action of the Commissioner or other law enforcement  
3           agency based upon or related to such information;

4           (C) in making disclosures that are required or protected under the  
5           Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. § 7201 et seq.), the Securities Act of  
6           1933 (15 U.S.C. § 77a et seq.), the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.  
7           § 78a et seq.), 18 U.S.C. § 1513(e), any other law, rule, or regulation subject to  
8           the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or chapter 150 of  
9           this title or a rule adopted under chapter 150 of this title; or

10          (D) in making disclosures to a person with supervisory authority over  
11          the employee or to such other person working for the employer who has the  
12          authority to investigate, discover, or terminate misconduct regarding matters  
13          subject to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner or the Securities and Exchange  
14          Commission.

15          (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (j)(1) of this section, an individual is  
16          not protected under this section if:

17               (A) the individual knowingly or recklessly makes a false, fictitious,  
18               or fraudulent statement or representation as part of, or in connection with, the  
19               original information provided or the administrative or judicial proceeding for  
20               which the original information was provided; or

1           (B) the individual, in its dealings with its supervisor, the State, law  
2           enforcement, or any other authority in connection with a possible violation or  
3           related action, knowingly or recklessly makes any false, fictitious, or  
4           fraudulent statement or representation or uses or provides any false writing or  
5           document knowing that or having a reckless disregard as to whether it contains  
6           any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

7           (3) An individual who alleges any act of retaliation in violation of  
8           subdivision (j)(1) of this section may bring an action for the relief provided in  
9           subdivision (j)(6) of this section in the court of original jurisdiction for the  
10           county or state where the alleged violation occurs, the individual resides, or the  
11           person against whom the action is filed resides or has a principal place of  
12           business.

13           (4) A subpoena requiring the attendance of a witness at a trial or hearing  
14           conducted under subdivision (j)(3) of this section may be served at any place in  
15           the United States.

16           (5) An action under subdivision (j)(3) of this section may not be brought  
17           more than the latest of:

18           (A) six years after the date on which the violation of subdivision  
19           (j)(1) of this section occurred;

1           (B) three years after the date when facts material to the right of action  
2           are known or reasonably should have been known by the employee alleging a  
3           violation of subdivision (j)(1) of this section;

4           (C) but in no event more than 10 years after the date on which the  
5           violation occurs.

6           (6) A court may award as relief for an individual prevailing in an action  
7           brought under this subsection:

8           (A) reinstatement with the same compensation, fringe benefits, and  
9           seniority status that the individual would have had, but for the retaliation;

10          (B) two times the amount of back pay otherwise owed to the  
11          individual, with interest;

12          (C) compensation for litigation costs, expert witness fees, and  
13          reasonable attorneys' fees;

14          (D) actual damages;

15          (E) an injunction to restrain a violation; or

16          (F) any combination of these remedies.

17          (7) Information that could reasonably be expected to reveal the identity  
18          of a whistleblower is exempt from public disclosure under 1 V.S.A. § 316.

19          This subsection does not limit the ability of any person to present evidence to a  
20          grand jury or to share evidence with potential witnesses or defendants in the  
21          course of an ongoing criminal investigation.

1           (8) No person may take any action to impede an individual from  
2           communicating directly with the Commissioner or the Commissioner’s staff  
3           about a possible securities law violation, including enforcing, or threatening to  
4           enforce, a confidentiality agreement with respect to such communications,  
5           except with respect to:

6                   (A) agreements concerning communications covered by the attorney-  
7                   client privilege, unless disclosure of that information would otherwise be  
8                   permitted by an attorney under applicable state attorney conduct rules or  
9                   otherwise; and

10                   (B) information obtained in connection with legal representation of a  
11                   client on whose behalf an individual or the individual’s employer or firm are  
12                   providing services, and the individual is seeking to use the information to make  
13                   a whistleblower submission for the individual’s own benefit, unless disclosure  
14                   would otherwise be permitted by an attorney pursuant to applicable state  
15                   attorney conduct rules or otherwise.

16           (9) The rights and remedies provided for in this section may not be  
17           waived by any agreement, policy form, or condition of employment, including  
18           by a predispute arbitration agreement.

19           (10) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to diminish the rights,  
20           privileges, or remedies of any individual under any federal or state law, or  
21           under any collective bargaining agreement.



1           (b) Credit allowed a domestic ceding insurer. Credit for reinsurance shall  
2           be allowed a domestic ceding insurer as either an asset or a ~~deduction~~  
3           reduction from liability on account of reinsurance ceded only when the  
4           reinsurer meets the requirements of subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), or (7)  
5           of this subsection (b), provided that the Commissioner may adopt by rule or  
6           regulation pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) of this section specific additional  
7           requirements relating to any or all of the following: the valuation of assets or  
8           reserve credits, the amount and forms of security supporting reinsurance  
9           arrangements described in subdivision (e)(2) of this section, or the  
10          circumstances pursuant to which credit will be reduced or eliminated. Credit  
11          shall be allowed under subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection (b) only  
12          with respect to cessions of those kinds or classes of business that the assuming  
13          insurer is licensed or otherwise permitted to write or assume in its state of  
14          domicile or, in the case of a U.S. branch of an alien assuming insurer, in the  
15          state through which it is entered and licensed to transact insurance or  
16          reinsurance. Credit shall be allowed under subdivision (3) or (4) of this  
17          subsection (b) only if the applicable requirements of subdivision (8) of this  
18          subsection (b) have been satisfied.

19               (1) Credit shall be allowed when the reinsurance is ceded to an  
20               assuming insurer that is licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance in this  
21               State.

1           (2) Credit shall be allowed when the reinsurance is ceded to an  
2           assuming insurer that is accredited by the Commissioner as a reinsurer in this  
3           State. An accredited reinsurer is one that:

4                   (A) files with the Commissioner evidence of its submission to this  
5           State’s jurisdiction;

6                   (B) submits to this State’s authority to examine its books and records;

7                   (C) is licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance in at least one  
8           state or, in the case of a U.S. branch of an alien assuming insurer, is entered  
9           through and licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance in at least one state;

10                   (D) files annually with the Commissioner ~~on or before March 1 of~~  
11           ~~each year~~ a copy of its annual statement filed with the insurance department of  
12           its state of domicile and ~~files on or before June 1 of each year~~ a copy of its  
13           most recent audited financial statement;

14                   (E) files with the Commissioner its charter, bylaws, and any other  
15           material required by the Commissioner;

16                   (F) pays an initial fee of \$500.00 and thereafter an annual fee of  
17           \$200.00 on or before March 1 of each year; and

18                   (G) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that it has  
19           adequate financial capacity to meet its reinsurance obligations and is otherwise  
20           qualified to assume reinsurance from domestic insurers. An assuming insurer

1 is deemed to meet this requirement, provided that at the time of its application  
2 it:

3 (i) maintains a surplus for policyholders that is not less than  
4 \$20,000,000.00 and whose accreditation has not been denied by the  
5 Commissioner within 90 days ~~of~~ following its submission; or

6 (ii) maintains a surplus for policyholders in an amount less than  
7 \$20,000,000.00 and whose accreditation has been approved the Commissioner.

8 ~~(H) Credit for reinsurance ceded to a certified reinsurer shall be~~  
9 ~~permitted only for reinsurance contracts entered into or renewed on or after the~~  
10 ~~effective date of the certification of the assuming insurer by the Commissioner.~~

11 (3)(A) Credit shall be allowed when the reinsurance is ceded to an  
12 assuming insurer ~~which~~ that is domiciled and licensed in, or in the case of a  
13 U.S. branch of an alien assuming insurer is entered through, a state that  
14 employs standards regarding credit for reinsurance substantially similar to  
15 those applicable under this statute and the assuming insurer or U.S. branch of  
16 an alien assuming insurer:

17 (i) maintains a surplus for policyholders in an amount not less than  
18 \$20,000,000.00; and

19 (ii) submits to the authority of this State to examine its books and  
20 records.

1           (B) The requirement of subdivision (3)(A)(i) of this subsection (b)  
2 does not apply to reinsurance ceded and assumed pursuant to pooling  
3 arrangements among insurers in the same holding company system.

4           (4)(A) Credit shall be allowed when the reinsurance is ceded to an  
5 assuming insurer ~~which~~ that maintains a trust fund in a qualified U.S. financial  
6 institution, as defined in subdivision (d)(2) of this section, for the payment of  
7 the valid claims of its U.S. ~~policyholders and~~ ceding insurers, their assigns, and  
8 successors in interest. The assuming insurer shall report annually to the  
9 Commissioner information required by the Commissioner and substantially the  
10 same as that required to be reported on the National Association of Insurance  
11 Commissioners' Annual Statement form by licensed insurers to enable the  
12 Commissioner to determine the sufficiency of the trust fund. ~~On or before~~  
13 ~~February 28 of each year, the trustees of the trust shall report to the~~  
14 ~~Commissioner in writing setting forth the balance of the trust and listing the~~  
15 ~~trust's investments at the preceding year end and shall certify the date of~~  
16 ~~termination of the trust, if so planned, or certify that the trust shall not expire~~  
17 ~~prior to the next following December 31. A trust and trust instrument~~  
18 ~~maintained pursuant to this subdivision shall:~~

19           (i) ~~be established in a form and upon such terms approved by the~~  
20 ~~Commissioner;~~

1           ~~(ii) provide that contested claims shall be valid and enforceable~~  
2           ~~upon the final order of any court of competent jurisdiction in the United States;~~

3           ~~(iii) vest legal title to its assets in the trustees of the trust for its~~  
4           ~~U.S. policyholders and ceding insurers, their assigns and successors in interest;~~

5           ~~(iv) be subject to examination as determined by the~~  
6           ~~Commissioner;~~

7           ~~(v) remain in effect for as long as the assuming insurer shall have~~  
8           ~~outstanding obligations due under the reinsurance agreements subject to the~~  
9           ~~trust; and~~

10           ~~(vi) be filed with the Commissioner of every state in which the~~  
11           ~~ceding insurer beneficiaries of the trust are domiciled. The assuming insurer~~  
12           ~~shall submit to examination of its books and records by the Commissioner and~~  
13           ~~bear the expense of the examination.~~

14           (B)(i) Credit for reinsurance shall not be granted under this  
15           subsection (b) unless the form of the trust and any amendments to the trust  
16           have been approved by:

17                   (I) the commissioner of the state where the trust is domiciled;  
18           or

19                   (II) the commissioner of another state who, pursuant to the  
20           terms of the trust instrument, has accepted principal regulatory oversight of the  
21           trust.

1                   (ii) The form of the trust and any trust amendments also shall be  
2 filed with the commissioner of every state in which the ceding insurer  
3 beneficiaries of the trust are domiciled. The trust instrument shall provide that  
4 contested claims shall be valid and enforceable upon the final order of any  
5 court of competent jurisdiction in the United States. The trust shall vest legal  
6 title to its assets in its trustees for the benefit of the assuming insurer’s U.S.  
7 ceding insurers, their assigns, and successors in interest. The trust and the  
8 assuming insurer shall be subject to examination as determined by the  
9 Commissioner.

10                   (iii) The trust shall remain in effect for as long as the assuming  
11 insurer has outstanding obligations due under the reinsurance agreements  
12 subject to the trust. Not later than February 28 of each year the trustee of the  
13 trust shall report to the Commissioner in writing the balance of the trust and a  
14 list of the trust’s investments at the preceding year-end and shall certify the  
15 date of termination of the trust, if so planned, or certify that the trust will not  
16 expire prior to the following December 31.

17                   (C) The following requirements shall apply to the following  
18 categories of assuming insurer:

19                   (i) In the case of a single assuming insurer, the trust fund shall  
20 consist of ~~a trustee account~~ funds in trust in an amount not less than  
21 ~~representing~~ the assuming insurer’s liabilities attributable to ~~business written in~~

1 ~~the United States~~ reinsurance ceded by U.S. ceding insurers, and, in addition,  
2 the assuming insurer shall maintain a trusteed surplus of not less than  
3 \$20,000,000.00, except at any time after the assuming insurer has permanently  
4 discontinued underwriting new business secured by the trust for at least three  
5 full years, the ~~Commissioner~~ commissioner with principal regulatory oversight  
6 of the trust may authorize a reduction in the required trusteed surplus, but only  
7 after a finding, based on an assessment of the risk, that the new required  
8 surplus level is adequate for the protection of U.S. ceding insurers,  
9 policyholders, and claimants in light of reasonably foreseeable adverse loss  
10 development. The risk assessment may involve an actuarial review, including  
11 an independent analysis of reserves and cash flows, and shall consider all  
12 material risk factors, including when applicable the lines of business involved,  
13 the stability of the incurred loss estimates, and the effect of the surplus  
14 requirements on the assuming insurer's liquidity or solvency. The minimum  
15 required trusteed surplus may not be reduced to an amount less than 30 percent  
16 of the assuming insurer's liabilities attributable to reinsurance ceded by U.S.  
17 ceding insurers covered by the trust.

18 ~~(C)(ii)(I)~~ In the case of a group including incorporated and individual  
19 unincorporated underwriters, ~~the trust shall consist of a trusteed account~~  
20 ~~representing the group's liabilities attributable to business written in the United~~  
21 ~~States and, in addition, the group shall maintain a trusteed surplus of which~~

1 ~~\$100,000,000.00 shall be held jointly for the benefit of U.S. ceding insurers of~~  
2 ~~any member of the group; the incorporated members of the group shall not~~  
3 ~~engage in any business other than underwriting as a member of the group and~~  
4 ~~shall be subject to the same level of solvency regulation and control by the~~  
5 ~~group's domiciliary regulator as are the unincorporated members; and the~~  
6 ~~group shall make available to the Commissioner an annual certification of the~~  
7 ~~solvency of each underwriter by the group's domiciliary regulator and its~~  
8 ~~independent public accountants;~~

9 (aa) for reinsurance ceded under reinsurance agreements  
10 with an inception, amendment, or renewal date on or after January 1, 1993, the  
11 trust shall consist of a trusted account in an amount not less than the respective  
12 underwriters' several liabilities attributable to business ceded by U.S.  
13 domiciled ceding insurers to any underwriter of the group;

14 (bb) for reinsurance ceded under reinsurance agreements  
15 with an inception date on or before December 31, 1992, and not amended or  
16 renewed after that date, notwithstanding the other provisions of this section,  
17 the trust shall consist of a trustee account in an amount not less than the  
18 respective underwriters' several insurance and reinsurance liabilities  
19 attributable to business written in the United States; and

20 (cc) in addition to the trusts specified in subdivisions (aa)  
21 and (bb) of this subdivision (C)(ii)(I), the group shall maintain in trust a

1 trusted surplus of which \$100,000,000.00 shall be held jointly for the benefit  
2 of U.S. domiciled ceding insurers of any member of the group for all years of  
3 the account.

4 (II) The incorporated members of the group shall not engage in  
5 any business other than underwriting as a member of the group and shall be  
6 subject to the same level of regulation and solvency control by the group's  
7 domiciliary regulator as are the unincorporated members.

8 (III) Within 90 days after its financial statements are due to be  
9 filed with the group's domiciliary regulator, the group shall provide to the  
10 Commissioner an annual certification of the solvency of each underwriter  
11 member by the group's domiciliary regulator or, if certification is unavailable,  
12 financial statements prepared by independent public accountants of each  
13 underwriter member of the group.

14 ~~(D)(iii)~~ In the case of a group of incorporated insurers under common  
15 administration ~~which complies with the filing requirements contained in~~  
16 ~~subdivision (b)(2) of this section and which has,~~ the group shall:

17 (I) have continuously transacted an insurance business outside  
18 the United States for at least three years immediately prior to making  
19 application for accreditation, ~~and submits to this State's authority to examine~~  
20 ~~its books and records and bears the expense of the examination, and which has~~  
21 ~~aggregate policyholders' surplus of \$10,000,000,000.00, the trust shall be in an~~

1 amount equal to the group's several liabilities attributable to business ceded by  
2 U.S. ceding insurers to any member of the group pursuant to reinsurance  
3 contracts issued in the name of such group, plus the group shall maintain a  
4 joint trustee surplus of which \$100,000,000.00 shall be held jointly for the  
5 benefit of U.S. ceding insurers of any member of the group as additional  
6 security for any such liabilities, and each member of the group shall make  
7 available to the Commissioner an annual certification of the member's  
8 solvency by the member's domiciliary regulator and its independent public  
9 accountant;

10 (II) maintain aggregate policyholders' surplus of at least  
11 \$10,000,000,000.00;

12 (III) maintain a trust fund in an amount not less than the  
13 group's several liabilities attributable to business ceded by U.S. domiciled  
14 ceding insurers to any member of the group pursuant to reinsurance contracts  
15 issued in the name of such group;

16 (IV) maintain a joint trustee surplus of which  
17 \$100,000,000.00 shall be held jointly for the benefit of U.S. domiciled ceding  
18 insurers of any member of the group as additional security for liabilities; and

19 (V) within 90 days after its financial statements are due to be  
20 filed with the group's domiciliary regulator, make available to the  
21 Commissioner an annual certification of each underwriter member's solvency

1 by the member’s domiciliary regulator and financial statements of each  
2 underwriter member of the group prepared by an independent public  
3 accountant.

4 (5) Credit shall be allowed when the reinsurance is ceded to an  
5 assuming insurer that has been certified by the Commissioner as a reinsurer in  
6 this State and secures its obligations in accordance with the requirements of  
7 this subdivision.

8 (A) In order to be eligible for certification, the assuming insurer  
9 shall:

10 (i) be domiciled and licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance  
11 in a qualified jurisdiction, as determined by the Commissioner under  
12 subdivision (C) of this subdivision (5);

13 (ii) maintain minimum capital and surplus, or its equivalent, in an  
14 amount to be determined by the Commissioner by rule or regulation;

15 (iii) maintain financial strength ratings from two or more rating  
16 agencies deemed acceptable by the Commissioner by rule or regulation;

17 (iv) agree to submit to the jurisdiction of this State, appoint the  
18 Commissioner as its agent for service of process in this State, and agree to  
19 provide security for 100 percent of the assuming insurer’s liabilities  
20 attributable to reinsurance ceded by U.S. ceding insurers if it resists  
21 enforcement of a final U.S. judgment;

1                   (v) agree to meet applicable information filing requirements as  
2 determined by the Commissioner, both with respect to an initial application for  
3 certification and on an ongoing basis; and

4                   (vi) ~~the assuming insurer must~~ satisfy any other requirements for  
5 certification deemed relevant by the Commissioner.

6                   (B) An ~~Association~~ association, including incorporated and  
7 individual unincorporated underwriters, may be a certified reinsurer. In order  
8 to be eligible for certification, in addition to satisfying the requirements of  
9 subdivision (A) of this subdivision (5):

10                  (i) The ~~Association~~ association shall satisfy its minimum capital  
11 and surplus requirements through the capital and surplus equivalents, net of  
12 liabilities, of the ~~Association~~ association and its members, which shall include  
13 a joint central fund that may be applied to any unsatisfied obligation of the  
14 ~~Association~~ association or any of its members, in an amount determined by the  
15 Commissioner to provide adequate protection.

16                  (ii) The incorporated members of the ~~Association~~ association shall  
17 not be engaged in any business other than underwriting as a member of the  
18 ~~Association~~ association and shall be subject to the same level of regulation and  
19 solvency control by the ~~Association's~~ association's domiciliary regulator as are  
20 the unincorporated members.

1                   (iii) Within 90 days after its financial statements are due to be  
2                   filed with the ~~Association's~~ association's domiciliary regulator, the  
3                   ~~Association~~ association shall provide to the Commissioner an annual  
4                   certification by the ~~Association's~~ association's domiciliary regulator of the  
5                   solvency of each underwriter member; or, if a certification is unavailable,  
6                   financial statements, prepared by independent public accountants, of each  
7                   underwriter member of the ~~Association~~ association.

8                   (C) The Commissioner shall create and publish a list of qualified  
9                   jurisdictions under which an assuming insurer licensed and domiciled in such  
10                  jurisdiction is eligible to be considered for certification by the Commissioner  
11                  as a certified reinsurer.

12                  (i) In order to determine whether the domiciliary jurisdiction of a  
13                  non-U.S. assuming insurer is eligible to be recognized as a qualified  
14                  jurisdiction, the Commissioner shall evaluate the appropriateness and  
15                  effectiveness of the reinsurance supervisory system of the jurisdiction, both  
16                  initially and on an ongoing basis, and consider the rights, benefits, and extent  
17                  of reciprocal recognition afforded by the non-U.S. jurisdiction to reinsurers  
18                  licensed and domiciled in the United States. A qualified jurisdiction shall  
19                  agree to share information and cooperate with the Commissioner with respect  
20                  to all certified reinsurers domiciled within that jurisdiction. A jurisdiction may  
21                  not be recognized as a qualified jurisdiction if the Commissioner has

1 determined that the jurisdiction does not adequately and promptly enforce final  
2 U.S. judgments and arbitration awards. Additional factors may be considered  
3 in the discretion of the Commissioner.

4 (ii) A list of qualified jurisdictions shall be published through the  
5 NAIC committee process. The Commissioner shall consider this list in  
6 determining qualified jurisdictions. If the Commissioner approves a  
7 jurisdiction as qualified that does not appear on the list of qualified  
8 jurisdictions, the Commissioner shall provide thoroughly documented  
9 justification in accordance with criteria to be developed by rule or regulation.

10 (iii) U.S. jurisdictions that meet the requirement for accreditation  
11 under the NAIC financial standards and accreditation program shall be  
12 recognized as qualified jurisdictions.

13 (iv) If a certified reinsurer's domiciliary jurisdiction ceases to be a  
14 qualified jurisdiction, the Commissioner has the discretion to suspend the  
15 reinsurer's certification indefinitely, in lieu of revocation.

16 (D) The Commissioner shall assign a rating to each certified  
17 reinsurer, giving due consideration to the financial strength ratings that have  
18 been assigned by rating agencies deemed acceptable to the Commissioner by  
19 rule or regulation. The Commissioner shall publish a list of all certified  
20 reinsurers and their ratings.

1           (E) A certified reinsurer shall secure obligations assumed from U.S.  
2 ceding insurers under this subsection (b) at a level consistent with its rating, as  
3 specified in rules or regulations adopted by the Commissioner.

4           (i) In order for a domestic ceding insurer to qualify for full  
5 financial statement credit for reinsurance ceded to a certified reinsurer, the  
6 certified reinsurer shall maintain security in a form acceptable to the  
7 Commissioner and consistent with the provisions of subsection (c) of this  
8 section or in a multibeneficiary trust in accordance with subdivision (4) of this  
9 subsection (b), except as otherwise provided in this subdivision.

10           (ii) If a certified reinsurer maintains a trust to fully secure its  
11 obligations subject to subdivision (4) of this subsection (b) and chooses to  
12 secure its obligations incurred as a certified reinsurer in the form of a  
13 multibeneficiary trust, the certified reinsurer shall maintain separate trust  
14 accounts for its obligations incurred under reinsurance agreements issued or  
15 renewed as a certified reinsurer with reduced security as permitted by this  
16 subsection (b) or comparable laws of other U.S. jurisdictions and for its  
17 obligations subject to subdivision (4) of this subsection. It shall be a condition  
18 to the grant of certification under this subdivision (5) of this subsection (b) that  
19 the certified reinsurer shall have bound itself, by the language of the trust and  
20 agreement with the Commissioner with principal regulatory oversight of each  
21 such trust account, to fund, upon termination of any such trust account, out of

1 the remaining surplus of such trust any deficiency of any other such trust  
2 account.

3 (iii) The minimum trustee surplus requirements provided in  
4 subdivision (4) of this subsection (b) are not applicable with respect to a  
5 multibeneficiary trust maintained by a certified reinsurer for the purpose of  
6 securing obligations incurred under this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (5)(E), except  
7 that such trust shall maintain a minimum trustee surplus of \$10,000,000.00.

8 (iv) With respect to obligations incurred by a certified reinsurer  
9 under this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (5)(E), if the security is insufficient, the  
10 Commissioner shall reduce the allowable credit by an amount proportionate to  
11 the deficiency and has the discretion to impose further reductions in allowable  
12 credit upon finding that there is a material risk that the certified reinsurer's  
13 obligations will not be paid in full when due.

14 (v) For purposes of this subdivision (5), a certified reinsurer  
15 whose certification has been terminated for any reason shall be treated as a  
16 certified reinsurer required to secure 100 percent of its obligations.

17 (I) As used in this subdivision (5), the term "terminated" refers  
18 to revocation, suspension, voluntary surrender, and inactive status.

19 (II) If the Commissioner continues to assign a higher rating as  
20 permitted by other provisions of this section, this requirement does not apply

1 to a certified reinsurer in inactive status or to a reinsurer whose certification  
2 has been suspended.

3 (F) If an applicant for certification has been certified as a reinsurer in  
4 an NAIC accredited jurisdiction, the Commissioner has the discretion to defer  
5 to that jurisdiction’s certification and has the discretion to defer to the rating  
6 assigned by that jurisdiction, and such assuming insurer shall be considered to  
7 be a certified reinsurer in this State.

8 (G) A certified reinsurer that ceases to assume new business in this  
9 State may request to maintain its certification in inactive status in order to  
10 continue to qualify for a reduction in security for its in-force business. An  
11 inactive certified reinsurer shall continue to comply with all applicable  
12 requirements of this subsection (b), and the Commissioner shall assign a rating  
13 that takes into account, if relevant, the reasons why the reinsurer is not  
14 assuming new business.

15 (6)(A) Credit shall be allowed when the reinsurance is ceded to an  
16 assuming insurer meeting each of the conditions set forth below:

17 (i) The assuming insurer shall have its head office or be domiciled  
18 in, as applicable, and be licensed in a reciprocal jurisdiction. As used in this  
19 section, “reciprocal jurisdiction” means a jurisdiction that meets one of the  
20 following:

1 (I) a non-U.S. jurisdiction that is subject to an in-force covered  
2 agreement with the United States, each within its legal authority; or, in the case  
3 of a covered agreement between the United States and European Union, is a  
4 member state of the European Union. As used in this ~~subsection~~ subdivision  
5 (b)(6), a “covered agreement” means an agreement entered into pursuant to  
6 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, 31 U.S.C.  
7 §§ 313 and 314, that is currently in effect or in a period of provisional  
8 application and addresses the elimination, under specified conditions, of  
9 collateral requirements as a condition for entering into any reinsurance  
10 agreement with a ceding insurer domiciled in this State or for allowing the  
11 ceding insurer to recognize credit for reinsurance;

12 (II) a U.S. jurisdiction that meets the requirements for  
13 accreditation under the NAIC financial standards and accreditation program; or

14 (III) a qualified jurisdiction, as determined by the  
15 Commissioner pursuant to subdivision (5)(C) of this subsection (b), that is not  
16 otherwise described in subdivision (6)(A)(i)(I) or (6)(A)(i)(II) of this  
17 subsection (b) and that meets certain additional requirements, consistent with  
18 the terms and conditions of in-force covered agreements, as specified by the  
19 Commissioner in rule or regulation.

20 (ii) The assuming insurer must have and maintain, on an ongoing  
21 basis, minimum capital and surplus, or its equivalent, calculated according to

1 the methodology of its domiciliary jurisdiction, in an amount to be set forth in  
2 rule or regulation. If the assuming insurer is an association, including  
3 incorporated and individual unincorporated underwriters, it must have and  
4 maintain, on an ongoing basis, minimum capital and surplus equivalents, net of  
5 liabilities, calculated according to the methodology applicable in its  
6 domiciliary jurisdiction, and a central fund containing a balance in amounts to  
7 be set forth in rule or regulation.

8 (iii) The assuming insurer must have and maintain, on an ongoing  
9 basis, a minimum solvency or capital ratio, as applicable, ~~that~~ which will be set  
10 forth in rule or regulation. If the assuming insurer is an association, including  
11 incorporated and individual unincorporated underwriters, it must have and  
12 maintain, on an ongoing basis, a minimum solvency or capital ratio in the  
13 reciprocal jurisdiction where the assuming insurer has its head office or is  
14 domiciled, as applicable, and is also licensed.

15 (iv) The assuming insurer must agree and provide adequate  
16 assurance to the Commissioner, in a form specified in rule or regulation by the  
17 Commissioner, of the following:

18 (I) The assuming insurer must provide prompt written notice  
19 and explanation to the Commissioner if it falls below the minimum  
20 requirements set forth in subdivision (6)(A)(ii) or (6)(A)(iii) of this subsection;

1       **(b)** or if any regulatory action is taken against it for serious noncompliance  
2       with applicable law.

3                   (II) The assuming insurer must consent in writing to the  
4       jurisdiction of the courts of this State and to the appointment of the  
5       Commissioner as agent for service of process. The Commissioner may require  
6       that consent for service of process be provided to the Commissioner and  
7       included in each reinsurance agreement. Nothing in this ~~subsection~~  
8       subdivision (6)(A)(iv)(II) shall limit, or in any way alter, the capacity of parties  
9       to a reinsurance agreement to agree to alternative dispute resolution  
10      mechanisms, except to the extent such agreements are unenforceable under  
11      applicable insolvency or delinquency laws.

12                   (III) The assuming insurer must consent in writing to pay all  
13      final judgments, wherever enforcement is sought, obtained by a ceding insurer  
14      or its legal successor, that have been declared enforceable in the jurisdiction  
15      where the judgment was obtained.

16                   (IV) Each reinsurance agreement must include a provision  
17      requiring the assuming insurer to provide security in an amount equal to  
18      100 percent of the assuming insurer's liabilities attributable to reinsurance  
19      ceded pursuant to that agreement if the assuming insurer resists enforcement of  
20      a final judgment that is enforceable under the law of the jurisdiction in which it

1 was obtained or a properly enforceable arbitration award, whether obtained by  
2 the ceding insurer or by its legal successor on behalf of its resolution estate.

3 (V) The assuming insurer must confirm that it is not presently  
4 participating in any solvent scheme of arrangement that involves this State's  
5 ceding insurers, and agree to notify the ceding insurer and the Commissioner  
6 and to provide security in an amount equal to 100 percent of the assuming  
7 insurer's liabilities to the ceding insurer, should the assuming insurer enter into  
8 such a solvent scheme of arrangement. Such security shall be in a form  
9 consistent with the provisions of subdivision (b)(5) and subsection (c) of this  
10 section and as specified by the Commissioner in rule or regulation.

11 (v) The assuming insurer or its legal successor must provide, if  
12 requested by the Commissioner, on behalf of itself and any legal predecessors,  
13 certain documentation to the Commissioner, as specified by the Commissioner  
14 in rule or regulation.

15 (vi) The assuming insurer must maintain a practice of prompt  
16 payment of claims under reinsurance agreements, pursuant to criteria set forth  
17 in rule or regulation.

18 (vii) The assuming insurer's supervisory authority must confirm to  
19 the Commissioner on an annual basis, as of the preceding December 31 or at  
20 the annual date otherwise statutorily reported to the reciprocal jurisdiction, that

1 the assuming insurer complies with the requirements set forth in subdivisions  
2 (6)(A)(ii) and (6)(A)(iii) of this subsection (b).

3 (viii) Nothing in this subdivision (b)(6)(A) precludes an assuming  
4 insurer from providing the Commissioner with information on a voluntary  
5 basis.

6 (B) The Commissioner shall timely create and publish a list of  
7 reciprocal jurisdictions.

8 (i) A list of reciprocal jurisdictions is published through the NAIC  
9 committee process. The Commissioner's list shall include any reciprocal  
10 jurisdiction as defined under subdivisions (6)(A)(i)(I) and (6)(A)(i)(II) of this  
11 subsection (b) and shall consider any other reciprocal jurisdiction included on  
12 the NAIC list. The Commissioner may approve a jurisdiction that does not  
13 appear on the NAIC list of reciprocal jurisdictions in accordance with criteria  
14 to be developed in rules or regulations adopted by the Commissioner.

15 (ii) The Commissioner may remove a jurisdiction from the list of  
16 reciprocal jurisdictions upon a determination that the jurisdiction no longer  
17 meets the requirements of a reciprocal jurisdiction, in accordance with a  
18 process set forth in rules or regulations adopted by the Commissioner, except  
19 that the Commissioner shall not remove from the list a reciprocal jurisdiction  
20 as defined under subdivisions (6)(A)(i)(I) and (6)(A)(i)(II) of this subsection  
21 (b). Upon removal of a reciprocal jurisdiction from this list, credit for

1 reinsurance ceded to an assuming insurer that has its home office or is  
2 domiciled in that jurisdiction shall be allowed, if otherwise allowed pursuant to  
3 this section.

4 (C) The Commissioner shall timely create and publish a list of  
5 assuming insurers that have satisfied the conditions set forth in this ~~subsection~~  
6 subdivision (b)(6) and to which cessions shall be granted credit in accordance  
7 with this ~~subsection~~ subdivision. The Commissioner may add an assuming  
8 insurer to such list if an NAIC accredited jurisdiction has added such assuming  
9 insurer to a list of such assuming insurers or if, upon initial eligibility, the  
10 assuming insurer submits the information to the Commissioner as required  
11 under subdivision (6)(A)(iv) of this subsection (b) and complies with any  
12 additional requirements that the Commissioner may impose by rule or  
13 regulation, except to the extent that they conflict with an applicable covered  
14 agreement.

15 (D) If the Commissioner determines that an assuming insurer no  
16 longer meets one or more of the requirements under this ~~subsection~~ subdivision  
17 (b)(6), the Commissioner may revoke or suspend the eligibility of the  
18 assuming insurer for recognition under this ~~subsection~~ subdivision in  
19 accordance with procedures set forth in rule or regulation.

20 (i) While an assuming insurer's eligibility is suspended, no  
21 reinsurance agreement issued, amended, or renewed after the effective date of

1 the suspension qualifies for credit except to the extent that the assuming  
2 insurer's obligations under the contract are secured in accordance with  
3 subsection (c) of this section.

4 (ii) If an assuming insurer's eligibility is revoked, no credit for  
5 reinsurance may be granted after the effective date of the revocation with  
6 respect to any reinsurance agreements entered into by the assuming insurer,  
7 including reinsurance agreements entered into prior to the date of revocation,  
8 except to the extent that the assuming insurer's obligations under the contract  
9 are secured in a form acceptable to the Commissioner and consistent with the  
10 provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

11 (E) If subject to a legal process of rehabilitation, liquidation, or  
12 conservation, as applicable, the ceding insurer, or its representative, may seek  
13 and, if determined appropriate by the court in which the proceedings are  
14 pending, may obtain an order requiring that the assuming insurer post security  
15 for all outstanding ceded liabilities.

16 (F) Nothing in this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (b)(6) shall limit or in any  
17 way alter the capacity of parties to a reinsurance agreement to agree on  
18 requirements for security or other terms in that reinsurance agreement, except  
19 as expressly prohibited by this section or other applicable law ~~or~~ rule, or  
20 regulation.

1           (G)(i) Credit may be taken under this subsection (b) only for  
2           reinsurance agreements entered into, amended, or renewed on or after  
3           January 1, 2021; and only with respect to losses incurred and reserves reported  
4           on or after the later of:

5                       (I) the date on which the assuming insurer has met all  
6           eligibility requirements pursuant to ~~subdivision (6)(A) of this subsection~~  
7           subdivision (b)(6)(A) of this section; and

8                       (II) the effective date of the new reinsurance agreement,  
9           amendment, or renewal.

10           (ii) This subdivision (b)(6)(G) does not alter or impair a ceding  
11           insurer’s right to take credit for reinsurance, to the extent that credit is not  
12           available under this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (b)(6), ~~as long as provided the~~  
13           reinsurance qualifies for credit under any other applicable provision of this  
14           section.

15           (iii) Nothing in this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (b)(6) shall authorize  
16           an assuming insurer to withdraw or reduce the security provided under any  
17           reinsurance agreement except as permitted by the terms of the agreement.

18           (iv) Nothing in this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (b)(6) shall limit, or in  
19           any way alter, the capacity of parties to any reinsurance agreement to  
20           renegotiate the agreement.

1           (7) Credit shall be allowed when the reinsurance is ceded to an  
2           assuming insurer not meeting the requirements of subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4),  
3           (5), or (6) of this subsection (b), but only as to the insurance of risks located in  
4           jurisdictions where the reinsurance is required by applicable law or regulation  
5           of that jurisdiction.

6           (8) If the assuming insurer is not licensed or accredited or certified to  
7           transact insurance or reinsurance in this State, the credit permitted by  
8           subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection (b) shall not be allowed unless the  
9           assuming insurer agrees in the reinsurance agreements:

10           (A)(i) That in the event of the failure of the assuming insurer to  
11           perform its obligations under the terms of the reinsurance agreement, the  
12           assuming insurer, at the request of the ceding insurer, shall submit to the  
13           jurisdiction of any court of competent jurisdiction in any state of the United  
14           States, will comply with all requirements necessary to give such court  
15           jurisdiction, and will abide by the final decision of such court or of any  
16           appellate court in the event of an appeal.

17           ~~(B)~~(ii) To designate the Commissioner, ~~the Secretary of State~~, or a  
18           designated attorney as its true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served  
19           any lawful process in any action, suit, or proceeding instituted by or on behalf  
20           of the ceding company.

1           (B) This ~~provision~~ subdivision (b)(8) is not intended to conflict with  
2 or override the obligation of the parties to a reinsurance agreement to arbitrate  
3 their disputes, if this obligation is created in the agreement.

4           (9) If the assuming insurer does not meet the requirements of  
5 subdivision (1), (2), (3), or (6) of this subsection (b), the credit permitted by  
6 subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection (b) shall not be allowed unless the  
7 assuming insurer agrees in the trust agreements to the following conditions:

8           (A) Notwithstanding any other provisions in the trust instrument to  
9 the contrary, if the trust fund is inadequate because it contains an amount less  
10 than the amount required by subdivisions (4)(B)–(D) of this subsection (b) or if  
11 the grantor of the trust has been declared insolvent or placed into receivership,  
12 rehabilitation, liquidation, or similar proceedings under the laws of its state or  
13 country of domicile, the trustee shall comply with an order of the  
14 ~~Commissioner~~ commissioner with regulatory oversight over the trust or with  
15 an order of a court of competent jurisdiction directing the trustee to transfer to  
16 the ~~Commissioner~~ commissioner with regulatory oversight all of the assets of  
17 the trust fund.

18           (B) The assets shall be distributed by and claims shall be filed with  
19 and valued by the ~~Commissioner~~ commissioner with regulatory oversight in  
20 accordance with the laws of the state in which the trust is domiciled that are  
21 applicable to the liquidation of domestic insurance companies.

1           (C) If the ~~Commissioner~~ commissioner with regulatory oversight  
2 determines that the assets of the trust fund or any part thereof are not necessary  
3 to satisfy the claims of the U.S. ceding insurers of the grantor of the trust, the  
4 assets or part thereof shall be returned by the ~~Commissioner~~ commissioner  
5 with regulatory oversight to the trustee for distribution in accordance with the  
6 trust agreement.

7           (D) The grantor shall waive any right otherwise available to it under  
8 U.S. law that is inconsistent with this ~~provision~~ subdivision (b)(9).

9           (10) If an accredited or certified reinsurer ceases to meet the  
10 requirements for accreditation or certification, the Commissioner may suspend  
11 or revoke the reinsurer’s accreditation or certification.

12           (A) The Commissioner must give the reinsurer notice and  
13 opportunity for hearing. The Commissioner may suspend or revoke a  
14 reinsurer’s accreditation or certification without a hearing if:

15                   (i) the reinsurer waives its right to hearing;

16                   (ii) the Commissioner’s order is based on regulatory action by the  
17 reinsurer’s domiciliary jurisdiction or the voluntary surrender or termination of  
18 the reinsurer’s eligibility to transact insurance or reinsurance business in its  
19 domiciliary jurisdiction or in the primary certifying state of the reinsurer under  
20 subdivision (5)(F) of this subsection (b); or

1                   (iii) the Commissioner finds that an emergency requires  
2 immediate action and a court of competent jurisdiction has not stayed the  
3 Commissioner’s action.

4                   (B) While a reinsurer’s accreditation or certification is suspended, no  
5 reinsurance contract issued or renewed after the effective date of the  
6 suspension qualifies for credit except to the extent that the reinsurer’s  
7 obligations under the contract are secured in accordance with subsection (c) of  
8 this section. If a reinsurer’s accreditation or certification is revoked, no credit  
9 for reinsurance may be granted after the effective date of the revocation except  
10 to the extent that the reinsurer’s obligations under the contract are secured in  
11 accordance with subdivision (5)(E) of this subsection (b) or subsection (c) of  
12 this section.

13                   (11) Concentration risk.

14                   (A) A ceding insurer shall take steps to manage its reinsurance  
15 recoverables proportionate to its own book of business. A domestic ceding  
16 insurer shall notify the Commissioner within 30 days after reinsurance  
17 recoverables from any single assuming insurer or group of affiliated assuming  
18 insurers exceeds 50 percent of the domestic ceding insurer’s last reported  
19 surplus to policyholders or after it is determined that reinsurance recoverables  
20 from any single assuming insurer or group of affiliated assuming insurers is

1 likely to exceed this limit. The notification shall demonstrate that the exposure  
2 is safely managed by the domestic ceding insurer.

3 (B) A ceding insurer shall take steps to diversify its reinsurance  
4 program. A domestic ceding insurer shall notify the Commissioner within 30  
5 days after ceding to any single assuming insurer or group of affiliated  
6 assuming insurers more than 20 percent of the ceding insurer's gross written  
7 premium in the prior calendar year or after it has determined that the  
8 reinsurance ceded to any single assuming insurer or group of affiliated  
9 assuming insurers is likely to exceed this limit. The notification shall  
10 demonstrate that the exposure is safely managed by the domestic ceding  
11 insurer.

12 (c) Asset or reduction from liability for reinsurance ceded by a domestic  
13 insurer to an assuming insurer not meeting the requirements of subsection (b)  
14 of this section. An asset or a reduction from liability for the reinsurance ceded  
15 by a domestic insurer to an assuming insurer not meeting the requirements of  
16 subsection (b) of this section shall be allowed in an amount not exceeding the  
17 liabilities carried by the ceding insurer, provided that the Commissioner may  
18 adopt by rule or regulation pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) of this section  
19 specific additional requirements relating to or setting forth any or all of the  
20 following: the valuation of assets or reserve credits, the amount and forms of  
21 security supporting reinsurance arrangements described in subdivision (e)(2) of

1 this section, and the circumstances pursuant to which credit will be reduced or  
2 eliminated. The reduction shall be in the amount of funds held by or on behalf  
3 of the ceding insurer, including funds held in trust for the ceding insurer, under  
4 a reinsurance contract with such assuming insurer as collateral for the payment  
5 of obligations thereunder, if such collateral is held in the United States subject  
6 to withdrawal solely by, and under the exclusive control of, the ceding insurer;  
7 or, in the case of a trust, held in a qualified U.S. financial institution, as defined  
8 in subdivision (d)(2) of this section. This security may be in the form of:

9 (1) ~~Cash~~ cash;

10 (2) ~~Securities~~ securities listed by the Securities Valuation Office of the  
11 National Association of Insurance Commissioners, including those deemed  
12 exempt from filing as defined by the Purposes and Procedures Manual of the  
13 Securities Valuation Office, and qualifying as admitted assets;

14 (3) ~~Clean~~ clean, irrevocable, unconditional letters of credit, issued or  
15 confirmed by a qualified U.S. financial institution as defined in subdivision  
16 (d)(1) of this section, which are effective ~~no~~ not later than December 31 ~~in~~  
17 ~~respect~~ of the year for which filing is being made, and in the possession of, or  
18 in trust for, the ceding company on or before the filing date of its annual  
19 statement.

20 (4) ~~Letters~~ letters of credit meeting applicable standards of issuer  
21 acceptability as of the dates of their issuance or confirmation shall,

1 notwithstanding the issuing or confirming institution’s subsequent failure to  
2 meet applicable standards of issuer acceptability, continue to be acceptable as  
3 security until their expiration, extension, renewal, modification, or amendment,  
4 whichever first occurs; or

5 ~~(4)(5)~~ Any any other form of collateral acceptable to the Commissioner.

6 (d) Qualified U.S. financial institutions.

7 (1) ~~For purposes of~~ As used in subdivision (c)(3) of this section, a  
8 “qualified U.S. financial institution” means an institution that:

9 (A) is organized or, in the case of a U.S. office of a foreign banking  
10 organization, licensed under the laws of the United States or any state thereof;

11 (B) is regulated, supervised, and examined by federal or state  
12 authorities having regulatory authority over banks and trust companies; and

13 (C) has been determined by either the Commissioner or the Securities  
14 Valuation Office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to  
15 meet such standards of financial condition and standing as are considered  
16 necessary and appropriate to regulate the quality of financial institutions whose  
17 letters of credit will be acceptable to the Commissioner.

18 (2) A “qualified U.S. financial institution” means, for purposes of those  
19 provisions of this section specifying those institutions that are eligible to act as  
20 a fiduciary of a trust, an institution that is:

1           (A) organized or, in the case of a U.S. branch or agency office of a  
2 foreign banking organization, licensed under the laws of the United States or  
3 any state thereof and has been granted authority to operate with fiduciary  
4 powers; and

5           (B) regulated, supervised, and examined by federal or state  
6 authorities having regulatory authority over banks and trust companies.

7           ~~(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, the~~  
8 ~~Commissioner shall allow credit for reinsurance ceded and assumed to a~~  
9 ~~pooling arrangement that has the following characteristics:~~

10           ~~(1) the majority of the pooling members are licensed to transact business~~  
11 ~~in this State, or are licensed in a state that is accredited with the National~~  
12 ~~Association of Insurance Commissioners, or are approved by the~~  
13 ~~Commissioner;~~

14           ~~(2) the members of the pool are subject to joint and several liability;~~

15           ~~(3) all members of the pool agree to file with the Commissioner,~~  
16 ~~annually on or before March 1, a copy of the member's annual statement filed~~  
17 ~~with the insurance department of its state of domicile; and~~

18           ~~(4) the manager of the pool files with the Commissioner, annually on or~~  
19 ~~before December 1, a request to be exempted from the provisions of~~  
20 ~~subdivisions (b)(1) through (4) of this section.~~

21           ~~(f)~~ Rules and regulations.

1           (1) The Commissioner may adopt rules or regulations implementing the  
2           provisions of this section.

3           (2)(A) The Commissioner may adopt rules or regulations applicable to  
4           reinsurance agreements. Such rules or regulations may apply only to  
5           reinsurance relating to:

6                   (i) life insurance policies with guaranteed nonlevel gross  
7                   premiums or guaranteed nonlevel benefits;

8                   (ii) universal life insurance policies with provisions resulting in  
9                   the ability of a policyholder to keep a policy in force over a secondary  
10                  guarantee period;

11                   (iii) variable annuities with guaranteed death or living benefits;

12                   (iv) long-term care insurance policies; or

13                   (v) such other life and health insurance and annuity products as to  
14                  which the NAIC adopts model regulatory requirements with respect to credit  
15                  for reinsurance.

16                  (B) A rule or regulation adopted pursuant to subdivision (2)(A)(i) or  
17                  (ii) of this subsection (e) may apply to any treaty that contains:

18                   (i) policies issued on or after January 1, 2015; or

19                   (ii) policies issued prior to January 1, 2015, if risk pertaining to  
20                  such pre-2015 policies is ceded in connection with the treaty, in whole or in  
21                  part, on or after January 1, 2015; or both.

1           (3) A rule or regulation adopted pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
2           subsection (e) may require the ceding insurer, in calculating the amounts or  
3           forms of security required to be held under regulations promulgated under this  
4           authority, to use the Valuation Manual adopted by the NAIC under Section  
5           11B(1) of the NAIC Standard Valuation Law, including all amendments  
6           adopted by the NAIC and in effect on the date as of which the calculation is  
7           made, to the extent applicable.

8           (4) A rule or regulation adopted pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
9           subsection (e) shall not apply to cessions to an assuming insurer that:

10           (A) meets the conditions set forth in subdivision (b)(6) of this  
11           section;

12           (B) is certified in this State; or

13           (C) maintains at least \$250,000,000.00 in capital and surplus when  
14           determined in accordance with the NAIC Accounting Practices and Procedures  
15           Manual, including all amendments thereto adopted by the NAIC, excluding the  
16           impact of any permitted or prescribed practices; and is:

17           (i) licensed in at least 26 states; or

18           (ii) licensed in at least 10 states and licensed or accredited in a  
19           total of at least 35 states.

