

Legislators OK two of division's measures

Oregon legislators have approved two measures sponsored by the Insurance Division:

- **SB 235** — Amends insurance trade practices for lending institutions to clarify consumer protections and to comply with the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act.
- **SB 253** — Completes agent licensing reciprocity with other states in conformance with federal law. Also updates Oregon's laws governing agent compensation.

Lawmakers also are considering restricting the use of credit scoring by auto and homeowner insurers. At

Please see **LEGISLATURE**, Page 2

State regulation best for protecting insurance consumers, Ario testifies

Effective and efficient insurance market regulation must be tailored to individual state needs in order to best protect consumers.

Oregon Insurance Administrator **Joel Ario**, in his role as secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), delivered that message May 6 to members of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Financial Services in Washington, D.C.

"Balancing effective consumer protection with regulatory efficiency is the cornerstone of an ongoing modernization effort that is well underway by NAIC members," Ario said.

While acknowledging the need to re-

duce inefficiencies and redundancy among the states, Ario cautioned members of Congress that market regulation is more difficult to harmonize than financial regulation where financial records do not change from state to state.

"The market behaviors of insurers can be quite different from one state to another because the laws may be different and insurer compliance with the laws may vary by state. Market regulation is definitely not an area where 'one size fits all' across the country."

Ario cited six major initiatives currently being pursued by the NAIC, all centered on market analysis techniques, uniform procedures and collaborative

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Oregon joins pilot program to streamline form filing

The Oregon Insurance Division and six other regulators are participating in a pilot program to determine if self-certified form filings are reliable.

The Speed-To-Market Self-Certification Pilot Program was developed by a subgroup of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Participating insurers will be able to self-certify that they have complied with state regulations when making form filings for most property and casualty products.

Data gathered during the one-year pilot program will help regulators evaluate the reliability of self-certified filings and determine if a streamlined filing process can be permanently implemented in their state.

Donna Bleiler, an assistant manager in the Rates & Forms Section, said workers' compensation, title and several other products with Oregon-specific requirements are excluded from the pilot program in Oregon.

To participate in the program, insurers must certify that their form filings are not false or misleading and comply with the applicable product standards checklist from the Insurance Division's Web site.

"Self-certification will shift the emphasis of our review process," Bleiler said. "We will approve a self-certified filing after doing a cursory review. A

more thorough follow-up review will be done later to gather data for the pilot program."

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INSIDE

Elaine Day, manager of Administrative Services and Operations, is one of three Insurance Division employees



Elaine Day

who retired June 1. **Maxi McKibben** and **Margaret Scott** also retired. For the story, please see Page 5.

How to participate

1. Go to the Oregon Insurance Division's Web site:
oregoninsurance.org
2. Click on *Rates and Forms*
3. Click on *Filing Requirements*
4. Click on *PC Pilot Form Filing*

AGENT LICENSING

Extension available for agents called to military active duty

By Margarita Nuñez

Agents called to military active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom are eligible for a license extension equal to their term of active service. To qualify for an extension, you must send a copy of your military orders to Agent Licensing.

If your license expires while you are on active duty, we will reinstate it once we receive a copy of your orders. We also will waive continuing education requirements for resident agents where applicable.

More information is available on our Web site: oregoninsurance.org. Click on *Agent Information*, then *Military active duty by Oregon producers*.

New licensing exam vendor

Effective July 1, all Oregon insurance agent, adjuster, and consultant exams will be administered by Promissor. Exam sites will be in Portland; Eugene; Medford; Vancouver, WA; Kennewick, WA; and Boise, ID. Please check our Web site for more information.

Responsible producers

As part of the Producer Licensing Model Act, a licensed "responsible producer" is now required for all licensed agencies. This change became effective Jan. 1, 2002. Responsible producers are licensed agents who are responsible for the agency's compliance with Oregon insurance laws and rules. As agency licenses are renewed, we are contacting each agency that does not have a responsible producer on file and requesting that one be provided.

Variable life clarification

To be eligible to apply for or renew a variable life license, an agent must be registered with an Oregon securities dealer. This means you must have passed the NASD Series 6 or 7 exam and the Series 63 or 66 exam.

If you are renewing a license and do not wish to continue to carry variable life, we need a signed statement surrendering the variable life class before your license can

be renewed. If you wish to continue carrying variable life, submit a copy of the NASD CRD printout. If you are not currently registered with an Oregon securities dealer, please contact your broker/dealer for information about how to do so.

Assumed business names

Resident agents and agencies using assumed business names must register those names with the Oregon Secretary of State's Corporation Division before we will accept an assumed business name under a license.

In addition, insurance agencies located in Oregon are required to obtain an agency license if they are a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity. Sole proprietors are not required to be licensed but must register assumed business names with the Corporation Division.

More information about assumed business names is available on the Corporation Division's Web site: www.filinginoregon.com.

CE credit for unregistered courses

There appears to be some confusion about what continuing education courses agents can file as unregistered courses. Eligible courses are lecture-type courses. Self-study courses, including book, computer disk and Internet courses, don't qualify as unregistered courses.

Courses taken from continuing education providers registered in Oregon aren't eligible. Registered providers are required to register every course they offer for credit to Oregon agents.

Self-study courses must be filed within 90 days of taking a course. To apply for an unregistered course, please submit Form 440-2179 with a copy of your certificate of attendance. The form is available on our Web site or by calling (503) 947-7981.

Margarita Nuñez is manager of the Agent Licensing Unit.

LEGISLATURE

Continued from Page 1

press time, SB 260 had been approved by the Senate and was being reviewed by a House committee. The bill bans credit scoring. The House is considering a compromise that would prohibit insurers from using credit scores to increase rates for current policyholders, but allow credit scoring for new applicants.

Other insurance measures being debated include:

- **HB 3630** would allow the SAIF Corp., the state-owned workers' compensation insurer, to assist medical malpractice insurance companies in reducing premiums for rural physicians.
- **HB 2987** would provide health insurers with broader rating capability and allow waivers of coverage on a restricted basis.
- **HB 3431** would allow health insurers

greater flexibility in the types of plans they could offer in the individual market.

For the latest legislative information, check the Insurance Division's Web site: oregoninsurance.org. Click on *2003 Legislature*.

The October issue of the *Oregon Insurance Regulator* will include summaries of insurance legislation approved during the 2003 session.

INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Streamlining efforts focus on uniformity, technology

Governor **Ted Kulongoski** has asked DCBS Director **Cory Streisinger** to lead a regulatory streamlining initiative to improve Oregon's economic climate while supporting essential consumer and worker protection standards. As part of this effort, each state agency was asked to catalog its streamlining efforts.

As we began compiling our lists of completed, in progress and planned projects, two things quickly became clear: 1) much has been accomplished, and 2) there's much left to be done.

Our regulatory streamlining goals focus on creating more uniformity in insurance regulation and utilizing technology to improve operational effectiveness and efficiency. We take the Governor's initiative very seriously and will continue our efforts toward regulatory streamlining and better utilization of technology.



Oregon pleased to be part of pilot filing program

Oregon is participating in a pilot program to see if self-certified form filings are reliable (See story, Page 1). This is another example of state regulators working with the industry to help get insurance products to market more quickly without compromising consumer protection.

Hard market requires creative solutions

The hard market for property and casualty insurers appears to be softening — at least a little bit. According to a

recent survey by a New York-based investment bank, rates are still increasing, but at a slower pace than last year.

For state insurance regulators, affordability and availability are major concerns, particularly in commercial lines such as medical malpractice insurance. While some have called for rate suppression, denying actuarially-sound rate increases can actually exacerbate the problem if insurers decide to leave the market.

Spreading the risks is a better solution. For example, Governor Kulongoski has submitted a plan to the Legislature (House Bill 3630) that would allow SAIF Corp., the state-owned workers' compensation insurer, to provide assistance to medical malpractice companies in reducing premiums for rural physicians.

The Governor's proposal addresses both availability and affordability and is a good example of the creative solutions needed during a hard market.

Retired employees will be missed

Three more Insurance Division employees retired on June 1: **Elaine Day**, **Maxi McKibben** and **Margaret Scott** (See story, Page 5). We will greatly miss their expertise: Elaine in the budget and personnel areas, Maxi in health insurance, and Margaret in the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program. Each made major contributions to the division and will be hard to replace.

Joel Ario
Insurance Administrator

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• **Investigations** (503) 947-7233
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Manager Carl Lundberg

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Asst. Manager Vacant

• **Life/P & C** (503) 947-7983

Asst. Manager Donna Bleiler

Employment opportunities

Shelley Greiner (503) 947-7222

Other agencies

Oregon Health Plan

1-800-359-9517

State Portability Option

Oregon Medical Insurance Pool
(Administered by Regence BlueCross
BlueShield)

1-800-848-7280

COBRA/ERISA/HIPAA questions

U.S. Department of Labor

1-866-275-7922

Workers' Compensation Division

General information

(503) 947-7810

Oregon Government

Directory Assistance

(503) 378-6500

COMPANY ACTIONS

Actions involving insurance companies are summarized below. Copies of enforcement orders and published exams are available on the Insurance Division's Web site: oregoninsurance.org.

Sanctions

Amerifirst Foundation, Inc.

Mesa, AZ

Violation: Issued charitable gift annuities in Oregon without a license.

Penalty: Ordered to cease and desist from issuing charitable gift annuities in Oregon without a license.

Date of order: June 10, 2003

First Actual American Insurance Co.

Canby, OR

Violation: Transacted insurance in Oregon as an unauthorized insurer.

Penalty: Ordered to cease and desist from violating the Insurance Code.

Date of order: March 18, 2003

OTR Truckers Association, Inc., OTR Truckers Health and Welfare Fund, M & M Underwriting, Inc.

Cumming, GA

Violation: Transacted insurance in Oregon without a license.

Penalty: Ordered to cease and desist from transacting insurance in Oregon without a license.

Date of order: June 10, 2003

New Admissions - Insurers

Accident Fund Insurance Co. of America

Lansing, MI • March 17, 2003
Casualty, incl. WC

Coventry First LLC

Fort Washington, PA • Feb. 24, 2003
Life Settlement

Old Republic National Title Insurance Co.

Minneapolis, MN • Feb. 5, 2003
Title

Professionals Direct Insurance Co.

Grand Rapids, MI • Feb. 7, 2003
Casualty excl. WC

United General Title Insurance Co.

Denver, CO • Feb. 26, 2003
Title

United National Casualty Insurance Co.

Hammond, IN • Feb. 18, 2003
Property, Casualty incl. WC, Marine and
Transportation, Surety, Health

Suspensions

Casualty Reciprocal Exchange

March 21, 2003

First Continental Life & Accident Insurance Co.

June 3, 2003

IGF Insurance Co.

April 25, 2003

Reciprocal of America

March 21, 2003

United Liberty Life Insurance Co.

June 3, 2003

US International Reinsurance Co.

April 25, 2003

Washington Casualty Co.

March 9, 2003

Surrenders of Authority

All American Life Insurance Co.

Merged into American General Life
Insurance Co. • Dec. 31, 2002

Ameribest Life Insurance Co.

Merged into Equitable Life Insurance
Co. of Iowa • Jan. 1, 2003

American Franklin Life Insurance Co.

Merged into Franklin Life Insurance Co.
• Dec. 31, 2002

American General Life Insurance Co. of New York

Merged into United States Life Insurance
Co. in the City of New York • Dec. 31,
2003

American General Life Insurance Co. of Pennsylvania

Merged into American General
Assurance Co. • Dec. 31, 2002

Chartwell Insurance Co.

Merged into Trenwick America
Reinsurance Corp. • Dec. 31, 2002

Delta Life and Annuity Co.

Merged into American Investors Life
Insurance Co., Inc. • Dec. 31, 2002

Employee Benefits Insurance Co.

Merged into Security Insurance Co. of
Hartford • Dec. 31, 2002

Franklin Life Insurance Co.

Merged into American General Life
Insurance Co. • Dec. 31, 2002

Gencare Dental Plans, Inc.

Voluntarily withdrew • Feb. 4, 2003

International Insurance Co.

Merged into TIG Insurance Co. • Dec.
16, 2002

Lincoln National Reassurance Co.

Merged into Swiss Re Life & Health
America, Inc. • Jan. 3, 2003

Maxicare Life and Health Insurance Co.

Voluntarily withdrew • March 20, 2003

Northbrook Life Insurance Co.

Merged into Allstate Life Insurance Co.
Jan. 1, 2003

Pennsylvania Casualty Co.

Certificate of authority expired • May 31,
2002

Security General Life Insurance Co.

Voluntarily withdrew • April 1, 2003

Sierra Pacific Life Insurance Co.

Voluntarily withdrew • March 14, 2003

SureCare Healthplans, Inc.

Voluntarily withdrew • Sept. 30, 2002

United Healthcare of Oregon, Inc.

Voluntarily withdrew • Feb. 28, 2003

Viaticus, Inc.

Voluntarily withdrew • Jan. 10, 2003

Published Examinations

Financial

Advantage Dental Plans

As of Dec. 31, 2001

Chicago Title Insurance Co. of OR

Target exam as of Oct. 14, 2002

Farmers Insurance Co. of OR

As of Dec. 31, 1999

First American Title Insurance Co. of OR

Target exam as of Oct. 7, 2002

Oregon Independent Colleges Employee Benefits Trust

Qualifying exam as of March 17, 2003

Oregon Mutual Insurance Co.

Target exam as of Dec. 31, 2001

Please see COMPANY, Page 5

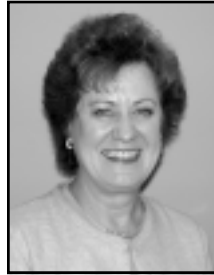
Three division employees finish long public service careers

Three veteran Insurance Division employees retired June 1: **Elaine Day**, manager of the Administrative Services & Operations Section; **Maxi McKibben**, assistant manager for health programs in the Rates & Forms Section; and **Margaret Scott**, field officer for the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program.

Elaine Day

Elaine Day has had some "real challenges and great opportunities" in her 34 years of state government service.

After beginning her career in 1969 as a secretary for the Oregon Department of Revenue, she worked in the Governor's Ombudsman's Office taking complaints about state government, administered a number of small licensing boards, helped start the hazardous materials program in the State Fire Marshal's office, and briefly served as Oregon's



Maxi McKibben



Margaret Scott

interim corporations commissioner.

Day initially came to the Insurance Division in 1987 to do a study of unisex insurance. She served as budget manager of the Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS) in January 1988 and moved to the Insurance Division in August 1989.

As manager of Administrative Services & Operations, Day serves as the division's budget and personnel manager, and oversees agent licensing, administrative rules, and public information.

During her tenure, the Insurance Division reduced the number of licensing fees it charges and based them on the actual cost of regulation. Fees are reviewed every two years.

Day hasn't had much time to think about retirement. She'll work under a temporary contract at least through the end of the current legislative session. She'll also continue as a trustee on the board of the Oregon State Library, possibly pursue other volunteer opportunities, and spend more time with her husband, Gary.

Maxi McKibben

Maxi McKibben joined the Insurance Division in 1988 as a compliance officer/investigator in the Consumer Protection Section. She helped implement Oregon's Small Employer Health Insurance program in 1992 and became assistant manager for health programs in 1996.

Carter earns AFE designation

Travis Carter, an examiner in the Financial Regulation Section, recently earned his accredited financial examiner designation (AFE) from the Society of Financial Examiners (SOFE). Carter has been with the Insurance Division since May 2001.

Before coming to the division, she worked 15 years as a claims manager for two insurance companies in Salem.

McKibben plans to spend more time on the golf course. She also enjoys decorating her new home with her husband, Ken, and entertaining her grandson.

Margaret Scott

Margaret Scott has always been interested in helping senior citizens, so she jumped at the chance to become a field officer for SHIBA in 1993. The federal/state program utilizes its toll-free information line, Web site and volunteer network to help people with Medicare make better health insurance decisions.

Scott retired after almost 33 years in government service. She worked 12 years as a psychiatric aide at the old Eastern Oregon Hospital and Training Center in Pendleton, a total of eight years for the state and county child support enforcement offices in Pendleton, and three years as palliative care coordinator for the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division in Salem.

Scott said she will especially miss the relationships she developed with SHIBA volunteers around the state.

Her retirement plans include traveling with her husband, Wayne; spending more time with her extended family, which includes two children and five grandchildren; and working as a SHIBA volunteer.

PERSONNEL

The following Insurance Division employees retired:

- **Elaine Day**, June 1, 2003 (See story, this page)
- **Maxi McKibben**, June 1, 2003 (See story, this page)
- **Margaret Scott**, June 1, 2003 (See story, this page)

Tammy Prevett was promoted to senior support assistant in the Rates & Forms Section. She had been an administrative assistant.

Elizabeth McMahon transferred to the Rates & Forms Section as an administrative assistant. She had been a licensing technician in Agent Licensing.

COMPANY

Continued from Page 4

Pacific Hospital Assoc., dba PacificSource Health Plans
As of Dec. 31, 2001

Safeco Insurance Co. of OR
As of Dec. 31, 2001

Standard Insurance Co.
As of Dec. 31, 2001

Western Grocers Employee Benefits Trust
As of Dec. 31, 2001

Market Conduct

Country Casualty Insurance Co.
As of June 30, 2001

Country Mutual Insurance Co.
As of June 30, 2001

ODS Health Plan, Inc.
As of Sept. 30, 2001

Old Republic National Title Insurance Co.
As of Sept. 30, 2002

PacificSource Health Plans
As of June 30, 2002

United General Title Insurance Co.
As of Dec. 31, 2002

PRODUCER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Actions against insurance producers are summarized below. Copies of enforcement orders are available on the Insurance Division's Web site: oregoninsurance.org. Click on *Enforcement Actions*.

Jessica M. Beatty

Marion, IA

Violations: Made a false statement on her Oregon nonresident agent license application. Was convicted of a crime. Had her license revoked by other states. Is not licensed in her resident state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

David A. Bradley and Schneider Insurance, Inc., dba Bradley Insurance Group

Golden, CO

Violations: Made a false statement on his Oregon nonresident agent license application. Was convicted of a crime. Had his license revoked by another state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent and agency licenses revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

Tabitha Amber Bradshaw

Tillamook, OR

Violations: Was convicted of a crime. Engaged in dishonest conduct.

Penalty: The Insurance Division refused to grant Bradshaw an agent license.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

Sally J. Bruns and Benefit Design Associates, Inc.

Cary, NC

Violation: Is not licensed in her resident state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent and agency licenses revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

Julie Ann Carasone

Colonial Beach, VA

Violations: Made false statements on an Oregon insurance license application. Was convicted of misdemeanors involving moral turpitude in another state. Had her license revoked by another state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: March 17, 2003

James M. Hahaj

Post Falls, ID

Violations: Was convicted of a crime. Is not licensed by his resident state. Had his license revoked by another state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

David W. Hite

Caribou, ME

Violations: Made a false statement on his Oregon nonresident agent license application. Was convicted of a crime.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

Kathy Holland and Holland Insurance Agency

Oregon City, OR

Violations: Failed to respond to an inquiry from the DCBS director. Failed to pay a civil penalty assessed by the DCBS director.

Penalty: Oregon resident agent and agency licenses revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

John V. Liller

Reno, NV

Violation: Is not licensed in his resident state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

Kenneth L. Ott

Amarillo, TX

Violations: Was convicted of embezzlement. Made a false statement on a license application. Failed to report a disciplinary action by another state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: Feb. 11, 2003

James O. Rosser

Estacada, OR

Violations: Engaged in fraudulent or dishonest practices. Failed to keep accurate

insurance premium trust account records. Failed to truthfully respond to an inquiry from the DCBS director.

Penalty: Oregon resident agent license revoked.

Date of order: March 7, 2003

Cassie Ann Stringer

Pocatello, ID

Violations: Made a false statement on her Oregon nonresident agent license application. Was convicted of a crime. Had her license revoked by another state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

Karen Y. Trujillo

Highland, CA

Violation: Was subject to an enforcement action by another state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

C. Dell Williams

Chicago, IL

Violations: Made a false statement on a license application. Was subject to disciplinary action by another state. Failed to report a disciplinary action by another state.

Penalty: Oregon nonresident agent license revoked.

Date of order: Feb. 11, 2003

Arthur L. Wornum

Beaverton, OR

Violation: Failed to deposit insurance premiums into a trust account.

Penalty: Oregon resident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

William G. Zuver

Winston, OR

Violations: Engaged in dishonest conduct. Failed to deposit insurance premiums in a trust account. Misappropriated insurance premiums. Failed to keep a record of an insurance transaction.

Penalty: Oregon resident agent license revoked.

Date of order: May 6, 2003

RULES & BULLETINS

Administrative rules and bulletins recently adopted or amended by the Insurance Division are summarized below. Rules and bulletins are available on our Web site: oregoninsurance.org.

Interested parties can subscribe to the division's electronic notification service for rulemaking notices, bulletins and other information (See story below).

To request a printed copy of a rule or bulletin, please contact **Sue Munson**, administrative rules coordinator:

Phone: (503) 947-7272

Mail: Administrative Rules Coordinator
Oregon Insurance Division
PO Box 14480
Salem, OR 97309-0405

E-mail: paulinesue.munson@state.or.us

Be sure to include the rule ID number or bulletin INS number with your request. There is no charge.

Administrative rules

ID 02-2003 — Adopts Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information: OAR 836-081-0101, 0106, 0111, 0116, 0121 and 0126

Establishes standards for insurers to develop and implement administrative, technical and physical safeguards for protecting the security, confidentiality and integrity of customer records and information. The rules enable Oregon to

Division starts electronic notification service

The Insurance Division has started an e-mail notification service to improve communication and save money.

Individuals or companies can sign up to be notified of a variety of division actions, including rulemaking, bulletins, press releases, enforcement orders, and company suspension orders. Subscribers also can choose to receive notices relating to charitable gift annuities, producer licensing, life and health insurance, property and casualty insurance, or rates and forms.

"The E-Notify service will result in significant savings in printing and mailing costs for the division," according to Oregon Insurance Administrator **Joel Ario**. "More importantly, it will ensure

carry out requirements of the federal Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act applicable to state insurance regulators.

Adopted: March 14, 2003

Effective: March 17, 2003

ID 03-2003 — Implements Legislation Requiring Prescription Drug Identification Cards: OAR 836-053-0005

Implements legislation enacted in 2001 that requires issuance of a prescription drug identification card or other technology to enrollees and requires the card or other technology to contain all information required for proper claims adjudication.

The requirement applies to carriers that provide coverage for prescription drugs on an outpatient basis and issue a card or other technology for claims processing, and to administrators of health benefit plans, including third party administrators for self-insured plans, pharmacy benefits managers and administrators of state-administered plans.

Adopted: April 9, 2003

Effective: July 1, 2003

Bulletins

INS 2003-2 — March 10, 2003

Lists bulletins that are still effective and those that have been withdrawn.

that important information gets to those who need it more quickly."

Each e-mail notice will include a direct link to the division's Web page, where additional information about the action or issue can be viewed or printed.

To subscribe to the new service, go to the Insurance Division's Web site (oregoninsurance.org), click on *E-Notify*, and follow the instructions.

Exhibits to administrative rules are now on the Web

Exhibits that are part of the Insurance Division's administrative rules are now available on the division's Web site.

"A number of our administrative rules have exhibits," said **Carl Lundberg**, deputy administrator. "In the past, people interested in an exhibit had to contact the division for a copy. Now, they can find the exhibits on our Web site."

To access Insurance Division administrative rules, visit our Web site: oregoninsurance.org. Click on *Laws, Rules & Bulletins*, then *Oregon Administrative Rules*, and follow the instructions.

STATE

Continued from Page 1

regulatory efforts. The six initiatives include:

- Developing a market analysis handbook
- Developing a market conduct annual statement program
- Implementing uniformity in examination procedures
- Developing investigation standards
- Developing an interstate reciprocity agreement
- Ongoing collaborative regulatory efforts focused on specific consumer problems

"The state regulatory system works, and has been working for many years," Ario said. "We recognize that the state process may take more effort than some would like, but it rewards consumers in each state by giving them control over important aspects that affect their financial security."

Division adds computer for public use

The Insurance Division now has a computer available in its Salem office that the public can use to review filings made through the System for Electronic Rate and Form Filings (SERFF). To reserve time on the public computer, call (503) 947-7983.

PILOT

Continued from Page 1

If the follow-up review finds that the filing doesn't comply with state regulations, the insurer will be asked to modify the filing. Disciplinary actions also may

be taken against the company.

Other insurance regulators participating in the self-certification pilot program are Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, and Oklahoma.

The pilot may be expanded to include other types of filings.

State-by-state filing requirements for property & casualty products available on NAIC's Web site

Insurers can now access state-by-state filing requirements for property and casualty products on the Web site of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

The NAIC's Product Requirements Locator allows product developers to create rates, rules and forms that comply with all requirements before submitting filings.

Oregon is one of a dozen states that have loaded their property and casualty filing requirements into the product locator database. The goal is to have all state requirements available.

The product locator is one of a series of operational and regulatory "speed-to-market" initiatives designed to make the product approval process more efficient.

The Insurance Division's Web site (oregoninsurance.org) includes a link to the Product Requirements Locator.

Click on *Rates and Forms*, then *New Developments in Rates and Forms*, then *Product Requirements Locator*.

Making filing requirements easily available should result in cleaner, more compliant filings and faster product approvals, according to **Donna Bleiler**, an assistant manager in the Insurance Division's Rates & Forms Section.

Insurers can search the database by product line, categories within a line, and jurisdiction.

"The product locator is an easy way to compare product requirements from state to state," Bleiler said. "It summarizes what each state requires and includes citations to applicable laws, rules or court cases."

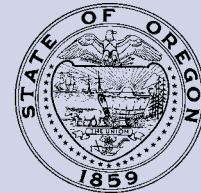
Bleiler said she expects a product locator for life and accident and health products to be done late this summer.

The *Oregon Insurance Regulator* is published in February, June and October by the Insurance Division of the Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS), PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405.

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oregoninsurance.org



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