

Assembly Bill No. 1183

Passed the Assembly August 31, 2001

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 28, 2001

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day of
_____, 2001, at _____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

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CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Sections 1063 and 1063.5 of the Insurance Code, relating to insurance, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1183, Calderon. California Insurance Guarantee Association.

Existing law provides for the creation of the California Insurance Guarantee Association in order to provide insolvency insurance for its member insurers. Existing law requires certain insurers to be members of the association as a condition of doing business. Existing law, in the event an insurer becomes insolvent, provides for the association to collect premium payments from its members in an amount sufficient to pay covered claims of the insolvent insurer and the associated adjustment costs. Existing law provides that the premium charged to any member insurer in that event for any of certain categories shall not be more than 1% of the net direct premium written in the category in this state by that member.

This bill would increase this amount for a time period of one year after its effective date from 1% to 2%. The bill would require the association annually to have an independent auditor perform a financial audit of the association and would require the Insurance Commissioner to conduct an examination of the association and to provide a copy of the examination report to the Chairpersons of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Insurance.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1063 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:

1063. (a) Within 60 days after the original effective date of this article, all insurers, including reciprocal insurers, admitted to transact insurance in this state of any or all of the following classes only in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1 (commencing



with Section 100) of Part 1 of this division: fire (see Section 102), marine (see Section 103), plate glass (see Section 107), liability (see Section 108), workers' compensation (see Section 109), common carrier liability (see Section 110), boiler and machinery (see Section 111), burglary (see Section 112), sprinkler (see Section 114), team and vehicle (see Section 115), automobile (see Section 116), aircraft (see Section 118), and miscellaneous (see Section 120), shall establish the California Insurance Guarantee Association (the association); provided, however, this article shall not apply to the following classes or kinds of insurance: life and annuity (see Section 101), title (see Section 104), fidelity or surety including fidelity or surety bonds, or any other bonding obligations (see Section 105), disability or health (see Section 106), credit (see Section 113), mortgage (see Section 117), mortgage guaranty, insolvency or legal (see Section 119), financial guaranty or other forms of insurance offering protection against investment risks (see Section 124), the ocean marine portion of any marine insurance or ocean marine coverage under any insurance policy including the following: the Jones Act (46 U.S.C. Sec. 688), the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 901 et seq.), or any other similar federal statutory enactment, or any endorsement or policy affording protection and indemnity coverage, or reinsurance as defined in Section 620, or fraternal fire insurance written by associations organized and operating under Sections 9080 to 9103, inclusive. Any insurer admitted to transact only those classes or kinds of insurance excluded from this article shall not be a member insurer of the association. Each such insurer, including the State Compensation Insurance Fund, as a condition of its authority to transact insurance in this state, shall participate in the association whether established voluntarily or by order of the commissioner after the elapse of 60 days following the original effective date of this article in accordance with rules to be established as provided in this article. It shall be the purpose of the association to provide for each member insurer insolvency insurance as defined in Section 119.5.

(b) The association shall be managed by a board of governors, composed of nine member insurers, each of which shall be appointed by the commissioner to serve initially for terms of one, two, or three years and thereafter for three-year terms so that three



terms shall expire each year on December 31, and shall continue in office until his or her successor shall be appointed and qualified. At least five members of the board shall be domestic insurers. At least three such members shall be stock insurers, and at least three shall be nonstock insurers. The nine members shall be representative, as nearly as possible, of the classes of insurance and of the kinds of insurers covered by this article. In case of a vacancy for any reason on the board, the commissioner shall appoint a member insurer to fill the unexpired term.

(c) The association shall adopt a plan of operations, and any amendments thereto, not inconsistent with the provisions of this article, necessary to assure the fair, reasonable, and equitable manner of administering the association, and to provide for other matters as are necessary or advisable to implement the provisions of this article. The plan of operations and any amendments thereto shall be subject to prior written approval by the commissioner. All members of the association shall adhere to the plan of operation.

(d) If for any reason the association fails to adopt a suitable plan of operation within 90 days following the original effective date of this article, or if at any time thereafter the association fails to adopt suitable amendments to the plan of operation, the commissioner shall after hearing adopt and promulgate reasonable rules as are necessary or advisable to effectuate the provisions of this chapter. These rules shall continue in force until modified by the commissioner after hearing or superseded by a plan of operation, adopted by the association and approved by the commissioner.

(e) In accordance with its plan of operation, the association may designate one or more of its members as a servicing facility, but a member may decline this designation. Each servicing facility shall be reimbursed by the association for all reasonable expenses it incurs and for all payments it makes on behalf of the association. Each servicing facility shall have authority to perform any functions of the association that the board of governors lawfully may delegate to it and to do so on behalf of and in the name of the association. The designation of servicing facilities shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

(f) The association shall have authority to borrow funds when necessary to effectuate the provisions of this article.



(g) The association, either in its own name or through servicing facilities, may be sued and may use the courts to assert or defend any rights the association may have by virtue of this article as reasonably necessary to fully effectuate the provisions thereof.

(h) The association shall have the right to intervene as a party in any proceeding instituted pursuant to Section 1016 wherein liquidation of a member insurer as defined in Section 1063.1 is sought.

(i) (1) The association shall have an annual audit of its financial condition conducted by an independent certified public accountant. The audit shall be conducted, to the extent possible, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and the report of the audit shall be submitted to the commissioner.

(2) The association shall annually audit at least one-third of the service companies retained by the association to adjust claims of insolvent insurers. The audits shall (A) assure that all covered claims are being investigated, adjusted, and paid in accordance with customary industry standards and practices and all applicable statutes, rules and regulations, and (B) examine the management and supervisory systems overseeing the claims functions. The audits shall be conducted by the association or an independent auditor, provided that the three largest service companies, as measured by the number of claims processed for the association during the previous three fiscal years, shall be audited by an independent auditor at least once every three years. The Association shall implement systems to retain independent auditing firms for the purpose of this paragraph, provided that no one firm is designated or utilized as an exclusive provider. Audits conducted pursuant to this paragraph shall be submitted annually to the commissioner for review.

(j) The commissioner shall examine the association to the same extent as, and in accordance with, the requirements of Article 4 (commencing with Section 730) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 2, which sets forth the examination requirements applicable to admitted insurers. A copy of the examination report shall be filed with the Chairpersons of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Insurance no later than December 31 of the year the report is completed.

SEC. 2. Section 1063.5 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:



1063.5. Each time an insurer becomes insolvent then, to the extent necessary to secure funds for the association for payment of covered claims of that insolvent insurer and also for payment of reasonable costs of adjusting the claims, the association shall collect premium payments from its member insurers sufficient to discharge its obligations. The association shall allocate its claim payments and costs, incurred or estimated to be incurred, to one or more of the following categories: (a) workers' compensation claims; (b) homeowners' claims, and automobile claims, which shall include: automobile material damage, automobile liability (both personal injury and death and property damage), medical payments and uninsured motorist claims; and (c) claims other than workers' compensation, homeowners', and automobile, as above defined. Separate premium payments shall be required for each category. The premium payments for each category shall be used to pay the claims and costs allocated to that category. The rate of premium charged shall be a uniform percentage of net direct written premium in the preceding calendar year applicable to that category. The rate of premium charges to each member in the appropriate categories shall initially be based on the written premium of each insurer as shown in the latest year's annual financial statement on file with the commissioner. The initial premium shall be adjusted by applying the same rate of premium charge as initially used to each insurer's written premium as shown on the annual statement for the second year following the year in which the initial premium charge is made. The difference between the initial premium charge and the adjusted premium charge shall be charged or credited to each member insurer by the association as soon as practical after the filing of the annual statements of the member insurers with the commissioner for the year on which the adjusted premium is based. In the case of an insurer that was a member insurer when the initial premium charge was made and that paid the initial assessment but is no longer a member insurer at the time of the adjusted premium charge by reason of its insolvency or its withdrawal from the state and surrender of its certificate of authority to transact insurance in this state, any credit accruing to that insurer shall be refunded to it by the association. "Net direct written premiums" shall mean the amount of gross premiums, less return premiums, received in that calendar year upon business done in this state, other than premiums received for



reinsurance. In cases of a dispute as to the amount of the net direct written premium between the association and one of its members the written decision of the commissioner shall be final. The premium charged to any member insurer for any of the three categories or a category established by the association shall not be more than 2 percent of the net direct premium written in that category in this state by that member insurer for one year from the effective date of the amendments made to this section by Assembly Bill No. 1183 of the 2001–02 Regular Session, and thereafter shall not be more than 1 percent of the net direct premium written in that category in this state by that member insurer. The association may exempt or defer, in whole or in part, the premium charge of any member insurer, if the premium charge would cause the member insurer's financial statement to reflect an amount of capital or surplus less than the minimum amounts required for a certificate of authority by any jurisdiction in which the member insurer is authorized to transact insurance. However, during the period of deferment, no dividends shall be paid to shareholders or policyholders by the company whose premium charge was deferred. Deferred premium charges shall be paid when the payment will not reduce capital or surplus below required minimums. These payments shall be credited against future premium charges to those companies receiving larger premium charges by virtue of the deferment. After all covered claims of the insolvent insurer and expenses of administration have been paid, any unused premiums and any reimbursements or claims dividends from the liquidator remaining in any category shall be retained by the association and applied to reduce future premium charges in the appropriate category. However, an insurer which ceases to be a member of the association, other than an insurer that has become insolvent or has withdrawn from the state and has surrendered its certificate of authority following an initial assessment that is entitled to a refund based upon an adjusted assessment as provided above in this section, shall have no right to a refund of any premium previously remitted to the association. The commissioner may suspend or revoke the certificate of authority to transact business in this state of a member insurer which fails to pay a premium when due and after demand has been made.



Interest at a rate equal to the current federal reserve discount rate plus 2¹/₂ percent per annum shall be added to the premium of any member insurer which fails to submit the premium requested by the association within 30 days after the mailing request. However, in no event shall the interest rate exceed the legal maximum.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order that the California Insurance Guarantee Association may increase its surcharge rate to ensure prompt and adequate payment to injured California workers in the event of insurer insolvencies, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.



Approved _____, 2001

Governor

