

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Banking and Insurance

BILL: SB 1344

INTRODUCER: Senator Braynon

SUBJECT: Insurance Association Appointments

DATE: March 16, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Billmeier	Knudson	BI	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	EE	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1344 provides that the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America will make recommendations to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for an appointment to the board of governors of the Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association. Current law provides that the Alliance of American Insurers and the National Association of Independent Insurers each make recommendations and the CFO appoints insurer representatives to the board from those recommendations. Those entities have merged to form the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America.

This bill provides that the CFO may select the representative of casualty insurers on the NICA board of directors from a list of at least two names, one recommended by the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America and one recommended by the American Insurance Association. Current law provides that those recommendations are made by the American Insurance Association, the Alliance of American Insurers, and the National Association of Independent Insurers. The CFO is not required to make a selection from the trade association nominees.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association

Section 627.351, F.S., creates the Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association (Association). The Association was created in 1975 to assure the availability of medical liability insurance to Florida health care providers.¹ The Association is a source of insurance for those

¹ See <https://www.fmmjua.com/fmmjua/Controller?page=faq> (accessed March 14, 2014).

medical providers who may be unable to obtain coverage from the competitive voluntary insurance market.²

Section 627.351(4)(c), F.S., provides that the Association operates under the supervision of a board of governors. The board of governors consists of:

- Representatives of five of the insurers participating in the Joint Underwriting Association;
- An attorney to be named by The Florida Bar;
- A physician to be named by the Florida Medical Association;
- A dentist to be named by the Florida Dental Association; and
- A hospital representative to be named by the Florida Hospital Association.³

The CFO selects the representatives of the five insurers. The insurer representatives are selected as follows:

- One insurer representative is selected from recommendations of the American Insurance Association.
- One insurer representative is selected from recommendations of the Alliance of American Insurers.
- One insurer representative is selected from recommendations of the National Association of Independent Insurers.
- Two insurer representatives shall be selected to represent insurers that are not affiliated with these associations.⁴

Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association

The Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Plan (Plan) was enacted by the Legislature in 1988.⁵ The Plan was created to provide compensation, long-term medical care, and other services to persons with birth-related neurological injuries. Although the benefits paid under the Plan are limited, the Plan does not require the claimant to prove malpractice and provides a streamlined administrative hearing to resolve the claim.⁶

The entity charged with administering the Plan is the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association (NICA). Under s. 766.315(4), F.S., NICA's duties include:

- Administering the plan, itself.
- Administering the funds collected.
- Reviewing and paying claims.
- Directing the investment and reinvestment of any surplus funds over losses and expenses.
- Reinsuring the risks of the plan in whole or in part.
- Suing and being sued, appearing and defending, in all actions and proceedings in its name.
- Taking such legal action as may be necessary to avoid payment of improper claims.⁷

² *Id.*

³ *See* s. 627.351(4)(c), F.S.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Chapter 88-1, ss. 60-75, L.O.F., was enacted by the Legislature in an attempt to stabilize and reduce malpractice insurance premiums for physicians practicing obstetrics, according to the legislative findings and intent cited in s. 766.301(1)(c), F.S.

⁶ *See Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Ass'n v. McKaughan*, 668 So.2d 974, 977 (Fla. 1996).

⁷ Section 766.315(4), F.S.

The Plan is governed by a board of five directors.⁸ The directors are appointed for staggered terms of 3 years or until their successors are appointed and have qualified.⁹ The directors are appointed by the CFO as follows:

- One citizen representative.
- One representative of participating physicians.
- One representative of hospitals.
- One representative of casualty insurers.
- One representative of physicians other than participating physicians.¹⁰

Section 766.315(2)(a), F.S., provides that the CFO may select:

- The representative of the participating physicians from a list of at least three names to be recommended by the Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society.
- The representative of hospitals from a list of at least three names to be recommended by the Florida Hospital Association.
- The representative of casualty insurers from a list of at least three names, one of which is recommended by the American Insurance Association, one by the Alliance of American Insurers, and one by the National Association of Independent Insurers.
- The representative of physicians other than participating physicians from a list of three names to be recommended by the Florida Medical Association and a list of three names to be recommended by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.¹¹

The CFO is not required to make any appointment from among the nominees of such respective associations.¹²

Property Casualty Insurers Association of America

The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America is a trade association representing more than 1,000 companies. Its purpose is to advocate its members' public policy positions at the state and federal levels and to provide its members with targeted industry information. Its members write over \$190 billion in annual premium, 46 percent of the U.S. automobile insurance market, 32 percent of the homeowners market, 38 percent of the commercial property and liability market, and 41 percent of the private workers compensation market.

The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America was formed in a merger between the Alliance of American Insurers and the National Association of Independent Insurers.¹³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill provides that the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America will recommend appointments to the board of governors of the Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting

⁸ See s. 766.315(1)(a), F.S.

⁹ See s. 766.315(1)(b), F.S.

¹⁰ See s. 766.315(1)(c), F.S.

¹¹ See s. 766.315(2)(a), F.S.

¹² See s. 766.315(2)(a), F.S.

¹³ See News Release by the National Association of Independent Insurers and the Alliance of American Insurers, December 14, 2003, and New Release by the National Association of Independent Insurers, January 2, 2004.

Association and to the board of directors of the NICA instead of the Alliance of American Insurers and the National Association of Independent Insurers.

This bill provides that the CFO will select one insurer representative on the Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association Board of Governors from recommendations from the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America. Selections will no longer have to be made from recommendations by the Alliance of American Insurers and the National Association of Independent Insurers. Three of five the insurer representatives will represent insurers not affiliated with the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America or American Insurance Association. The CFO will continue to select one insurer representative from recommendations of the American Insurance Association.

This bill provides that the CFO may select the representative of casualty insurers on the NICA board of directors from a list of at least two names, one recommended by the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America and one recommended by the American Insurance Association. The CFO is not required to make a selection from the trade association nominees.

Effective Date:

This bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 627.351, 766.315.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.