

**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.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government

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BILL: PCS/CS/SB 1134 (125558)

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Banking and Insurance Committee; and Senator Hays

SUBJECT: Blanket Health Insurance

DATE: April 6, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Knudson</u>	<u>BI</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Betta</u>	<u>DeLoach</u>	<u>AGG</u>	<u>Recommend: Fav/CS</u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

PCS/CS/SB 1134 expands and clarifies the types of special groups of individuals that may be covered by a blanket health insurance policy or contract. Blanket health insurance covers special groups of individuals under a master policy or contract, as delineated in s. 627.659, F.S., generally while they are engaging in specified activities or operations.

There is no fiscal impact to the state.

The bill is effective July 1, 2015.

**II. Present Situation:**

The Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) licenses and regulates the activities of insurers, health maintenance organizations, and other risk-bearing entities.<sup>1</sup> Blanket health insurance covers special groups of individuals under a policy or contract issued to the following groups:<sup>2</sup>

- A common carrier;
- An employer;
- A volunteer fire department;

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<sup>1</sup> Section 20.121(3)(a)1., F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 627.659, F.S.

- A school, school district, college, university, or other institution of learning;
- An organization or branch of the Boys Scouts of America, Future Farmers of America, religious or educational organizations, or similar organizations;
- An individual, firm, or corporation holding or operating summer camps or other meetings;
- A newspaper;
- A health care provider;
- An HMO; and
- Other specified entities.

Blanket policies and contracts are issued to a policyholder, such as a school, business, or an organization, and provide coverage to a group of individuals or participants who share a common activity or operation of the policyholder. An individual application is not required from an individual covered under a blanket health insurance policy or contract. Generally, the insurer is not required to provide a written certificate of the insurance coverage to each insured person.<sup>3</sup> The certificate is subject to filing and approval with the OIR pursuant to ss. 627.410 and 627.640, F.S.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill substantially revises and expands the special groups of individuals that are eligible under a blanket health insurance policy or contract. The bill would expand the special groups to include policies or contracts issued to:

- An operator, an owner, or a lessee of a means of transportation. Currently, a common carrier is eligible.
- Employers covering insured employees' dependents or guests, who are defined by reference to an activity or operation of the policyholder.
- Local emergency management agency or other group of first responders.
- Organization or branches of an instructional, charitable, recreational, or civic body.
- Individuals, firms, or corporations holding or operating meetings, such as meetings for educational, charitable, or civic purposes.
- Other publishers besides newspapers. Such a policy or contract may only provide coverage for accident or disability income insurance, or a combination thereof; limited scope dental or vision benefits; coverage for a specified disease or illness; or hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance.
- Coordinators of fertility medicine relationships, such as surrogacy agency, which is deemed to be a policyholder, covering donors, recipients, or surrogates.
- Sports teams or camps, or a sponsors thereof.
- Travel agencies or other organizations that provides travel-related services.
- Associations having at least 25 individuals that has been organized and maintained for one year for purposes other than that of obtaining insurance coverage.
- Financial institutions, a parent holding company of a financial institution, or

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<sup>3</sup> An insurer is required to furnish a written certificate disclosing the essential features of the coverage to each person covered under a policy issued pursuant to s. 627.659(3), F.S., relating to policies issued to a school, district school system, college, university, or other institution of learning. Section 627.660(6), F.S.

- A trustee or agent of a financial institution or a parent holding company. Such a policy or contract may only provide coverage for accident or disability income insurance, or a combination thereof; limited scope dental or vision benefits; coverage for a specified disease or illness; or hospital indemnity or other fixed indemnity insurance.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

#### **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:

PCS/CS/SB 1134 would allow additional groups to obtain blanket health insurance coverage. According to advocates of the bill, although this coverage is not a substitute for liability insurance, such blanket policies may assist in reducing liability claims and offer reimbursement to participants for medical and other accidental injury-related expenses.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

#### **VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

#### **VII. Related Issues:**

None.

#### **VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 627.659 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**Recommended CS/CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on April 2, 2015:**

The CS revises and clarifies the groups that would be eligible for blanket health insurance coverage.

**CS by Banking and Insurance on March 17, 2015:**

The CS eliminates the discretionary authority of the OIR to determine additional risks or classes of risks not specified in statute that would be eligible for blanket health insurance coverage.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.