

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to branch insurance agencies; amending s.
 3 626.747, F.S.; authorizing certain licensed agents to be
 4 the agent in charge of branch locations under certain
 5 circumstances; providing limitations; providing an
 6 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 626.747, Florida
 11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 626.747 Branch agencies.--

13 (1) (a) Each branch place of business established by an
 14 agent or agency, firm, corporation, or association shall be in
 15 the active full-time charge of a licensed general lines agent or
 16 life or health agent who is appointed to represent one or more
 17 insurers. Any agent or agency, firm, corporation, or association
 18 which has established one or more branch places of business
 19 shall be required to have at least one licensed general lines
 20 agent who is appointed to represent one or more insurers at each
 21 location of the agency including its headquarters location.

22 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the licensed agent in
 23 charge of a financial institution as defined in s.
 24 655.005(1)(h), securities dealer registered pursuant to s.
 25 517.12, or funeral establishment licensed pursuant to chapter
 26 497, or an agency affiliated with such a financial institution,
 27 securities dealer, or funeral establishment, or a branch of such
 28 an agency, that is licensed or registered as an insurance agency

29 may also be the agent in charge of branch locations provided no
30 insurance activities requiring licensure as an insurance agent
31 occur at any location when the agent is not physically present
32 and no unlicensed employee at the location engages in any
33 insurance activities requiring licensure as an insurance agent.

34 (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), the licensed
35 agent in charge of an insurance agency not affiliated with a
36 financial institution as defined in s. 655.005, a securities
37 dealer registered under s. 517.12, or a funeral establishment
38 licensed under chapter 497 may also be the agent in charge of
39 such additional branch office locations if insurance activities
40 requiring licensure as an insurance agent do not occur at any
41 location when the agent is not physically present and unlicensed
42 employees at the location do not engage in any insurance
43 activities requiring licensure as an insurance agent or customer
44 service representative.

45 Section 2. For fiscal year 2007-2008, the sum of \$132,000
46 in nonrecurring funds from the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund
47 is appropriated to the Department of Financial Services for
48 computer system changes necessary to implement the provisions of
49 section 626.747, Florida Statutes.

50 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.