

By Senator Lawson

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to insurance agents; creating s. 626.2818,
3 F.S.; providing up to 6 hours of continuing education
4 credit for active members of a state or national insurance
5 association; authorizing the Department of Financial
6 Services to adopt rules; 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. Section 626.2818, Florida Statutes, is created
11 to read:

12 626.2818 Continuing education credit.--The department may
13 grant up to 6 hours of credit per reporting period toward meeting
14 the continuing education requirements under s. 626.2815 to a
15 licensee who is an active member of a state or national insurance
16 association. However, the 6 hours of credit may not be used to
17 meet the 3 hours of continuing education requirement on ethics.

18 (1) For the purposes of this section, the term:

19 (a) "Educational material" means printed or electronic
20 material intended to enhance the recipient's knowledge of
21 insurance-related topics.

22 (b) "Educational presentation" means a live presentation to
23 a group of 10 or more licensees at a local or statewide meeting,
24 which is sanctioned by a state or national insurance association,
25 which allows for questions or discussion, and which provides
26 information intended to enhance the recipient's knowledge of
27 insurance or financial-planning-related topics.

28 (c) "State or national insurance association" means a
29 membership organization that:

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30 1. Is organized as a trade or professional association or
31 corporation;

32 2. Is funded through paid memberships renewed annually or
33 biennially;

34 3. Is organized for the express purpose of promoting the
35 interests of insurance licensees or a class of insurance
36 licensees, including classes based on regional, gender,
37 religious, or minority interests;

38 4. Has been in existence for 5 or more years; and

39 5. Maintains a code of ethics applicable to all members.

40 (2) A licensee who is a member in good standing of a state
41 or national insurance association may receive up to 6 hours of
42 continuing education credit per reporting period by accumulating
43 up to:

44 (a) Two hours of credit for reviewing educational material
45 provided by the state or national insurance association in which
46 the licensee is a member; or

47 (b) Six hours of credit for attending an education
48 presentation sponsored by the state or national association in
49 which the licensee is a member.

50 (3) A licensee may accumulate hours from different state or
51 national insurance associations in which he or she holds
52 membership in order to reach the 6-hour maximum, but, regardless
53 of the number of association memberships or hours accumulated,
54 the licensee may not claim more than 6 hours of credit in any
55 single reporting period and may not use hours acquired during a
56 prior reporting period.

57 (4) A licensee claiming continuing education credits under
58 this section may claim the actual time, up to an accumulated

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59 total of 6 hours, which the licensee needs to review the
60 educational material or attend an educational presentation.

61 (5) The department may adopt by rule a form and a procedure
62 for certifying that the continuing education credit hours claimed
63 meet the requirements of this section.

64 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.