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Overview

This bill includes a variety of technical, clarifying, and substantive provisions regarding licenses regulated by the Department of Commerce. The subjects covered and the section numbers in the bill devoted to them are license education (1-3, 6-24), payment of license fees (4), forms (5), insurance producers (25-31), insurance adjusters (32-55), real estate brokers and salespersons (56-57), and real estate appraisers (58-73). The sections dealing with insurance producers update our laws to match the current version of the Model Act recommended by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). The sections dealing with insurance adjusters update our laws to match the current versions of the Current versions of the Model Act (for public adjusters) and Guideline (for independent adjusters) recommended by the NAIC.

Section

- 1 **License education approval.** Changes terminology by replacing "sponsor" with "education provider."
- 2 License education fees. Changes terminology by replacing "sponsor" with "education provider."
- **3 Definitions**. Adopts definitions related to license education, including some from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2809, which this bill repeals. Defines "appropriate and related knowledge," "classroom hour," "commissioner," "coordinator," "education provider," "encrypted online examination," "instructor," "licensee," "overpayment," "person," "proctor," and "professional designation" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 45 (Commerce General Powers).
- **4 Payment of fees**. Prohibits cash payment for license fees and limits refunds to overpayments.
- **5 Forms**. Requires forms to be submitted in the form specified by the commissioner.

- 7 Initial education. Specifies that prelicense education students must attend the entire course, complete all assignments, and pass a comprehensive examination in order to receive credit for the course. Requires submission of the course for the commissioner's approval at least 30 days before the course is initially offered.
- 8 Continuing education. Provides that continuing education courses must impart appropriate and related knowledge. Requires an examination for an interactive Internet course and a textbook or syllabus for all courses. Allows qualified instructors to receive triple credit. Provides that certain courses will not receive the commissioner's approval, including test preparation, sales promotion, and office management courses. Specifies that courses must be approved in advance by the commissioner and allows that certain courses may receive expedited approval if the provider certifies that the course complies with applicable requirements. Provides that certain insurance courses may be restricted to agents of the company or agency.
- 9 Prelicense education courses offered over the Internet. Requires appraiser and insurance prelicense education courses to be approved by the International Distance Education Certification Center (IDECC). Requires real estate prelicense education courses to be approved by IDECC or the Association of Real Estate License Law Officials. Provides that the final examination must be monitored by a proctor.
- 10 Continuing education courses offered over the Internet. Specifies the requirements for Internet continuing education courses, including encryption, technology to guarantee seat time, a high level of interactivity, a process to authenticate the student's identity, and questions that must be answered before the student can proceed to the next part of the course. These are necessary to verify that the student actually attended the entire course. Provides that the final examination must either be encrypted (if online) or monitored by a proctor (if on paper).
- **Education provider**. Provides that education providers must make certain records available to the commissioner.
- 12 Course coordinator. Requires an education provider to have a coordinator who supervises the program and ensures compliance with all laws. Specifies the criteria that a coordinator must meet and the responsibilities of a coordinator.
- **13 Instructors**. Requires qualified instructors for license education courses. Specifies qualifications and responsibilities for instructors.
- 14 **Prohibited practices for coordinators and instructors**. Prohibits various acts by coordinators and instructors, including promoting a particular business, requiring students to participate in other programs, and issuing inaccurate course completion certificates. Requires coordinators to notify the commissioner of disciplinary action taken against the coordinator or an instructor.
- 15 Fees. Provides that fees for license education courses must be clearly identified and returned within 15 days if a course is canceled.
- 16 Facilities. Provides that classrooms must be large enough to accommodate the number of students enrolled in a course. Allows an education provider to limit the number of students enrolled in a course. Prohibits courses, except allowed company-sponsored courses, from

being held on the premises of a company doing business in the regulated area.

- 17 **Supplementary materials**. Provides that students must receive all necessary course materials.
- **18** Advertising courses. Specifies requirements for advertising license education courses. Provides that courses may not be advertised as approved until the commissioner's approval has been granted in writing. Provides that courses may be advertised as "approval pending" if that is true. Requires an advertisement to display prominently the number of hours for which the course has been approved.
- 19 Notice to students. Requires students to be told at the beginning of a course how many hours of credit they will receive.
- 20 Audits. Provides that the commissioner may audit a course with or without prior notice.
- 21 Falsification of reports. Provides that a licensee or applicant who falsifies an education report will be subject to license suspension or revocation or denial of the application for licensure. Allows the commissioner to audit a licensee's education records.
- 22 **Disciplinary action**. Allows the commissioner to take disciplinary action against a coordinator or course and disallow an instructor if the coordinator, course, or instructor does not comply with applicable laws.
- 23 Waivers and extensions. Allows the commissioner to waive continuing education requirements for up to a year for reasons of physical or medical disability. Allows the commissioner to extend the deadline for completion of continuing education requirements for up to 90 days for reasons of financial or medical hardship. Requires extension requests to be documented and submitted at least days before the education is due. Clarifies that no waiver or extension is available for appraiser license education.
- 24 **Reporting requirements**. Provides that education must be reported within 10 days of the course completion.
- 25 **Fingerprint**. Defines "fingerprint" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 60K (Insurance Producers).
- 26 Course of study. Amends the subdivision to allow insurance prelicense education to be obtained via verifiable self-study. Changes the number of required hours from 30 plus 7.5 per line of authority to 20 per major line of authority. Deletes exemption language that will now appear elsewhere in the chapter.
- 27 **Exemptions**. Provides exemptions from insurance prelicensing education for applicants for a farm property liability or variable life/variable annuity line and applicants with applicable college degrees or professional designations.
- **28 Insurance education**. Specifies the required content for insurance prelicensing education.
- 29 Criminal history record check; fingerprints. Provides that an applicant for a resident insurance producer license must consent to a criminal history record check and submit a fingerprint card. Authorizes the commissioner to contract for the collection and transmission of fingerprints.
- **30 Licensing fees.** Amends the subdivision to change the renewal date for individual insurance producer licenses from a date certain (October 31) to the last day of the producer's birth month. Specifies a phased transition.

- **31 Continuing insurance education**. Amends the subdivision to give the commissioner discretion on whether to adopt rules or approve education programs approved by Minnesota Continuing Legal Education. Deletes language concerning nonaccredited courses that will now appear in chapter 45. Changes the number of required continuing education hours from 30 to 24, with 3 of those hours in ethics. Exempts courses that are open to the public from classification as "company-sponsored." Removes the limitation on the number of hours of continuing education that could be completed via "new delivery technology" such as the Internet. Deletes references to specific class areas. Removes a waiver of the continuing education requirements for a licensee who is no longer actively engaged in selling insurance. Removes the option for a person to complete a nonaccredited course and later apply for retroactive approval of it.
- **32 Person**. Amends the definition of "person" in chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters) to include business entities.
- **33 Independent adjuster**. Amends the definition of "independent adjuster" to accord with the NAIC model definition.
- **34 Catastrophe**. Amends the definition of "catastrophe" to accord with the NAIC model definition.
- **Business entity**. Defines "business entity" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters).
- **36 Fingerprint**. Defines "fingerprint" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters).
- **37 Home state**. Defines "home state" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters).
- **38** Individual. Defines "individual" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters).
- **39 Insurer**. Defines "insurer" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters).
- **40 Uniform Individual Application**. Defines "Uniform Individual Application" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters).
- **41 Uniform Business Entity Application**. Defines "Uniform Business Entity Application" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 72B (Insurance Adjusters).
- 42 Licenses. Amends the section to accord with the language of the NAIC model. Exempts various persons from licensure as an insurance adjuster. Replaces the current use of "fields" for adjuster licenses with "lines of authority" and introduces property/casualty, workers' compensation, and crop as the available lines of authority. Provides that a lapsed license may be reactivated within 12 months of expiration by paying double the renewal fee.
- **43 Resident Independent Adjuster License Procedure and Requirements; examinations; fees**. Requires submission of the appropriate NAIC application form. Specifies the requirements for licensure, including successfully passing an examination. Provides that an applicant for a resident insurance adjuster license must consent to a criminal history record check and submit a fingerprint card. Authorizes the commissioner to contract for the collection and transmission of fingerprints. Requires a surety bond for a public adjuster's license. Changes the renewal date for individual insurance adjuster licenses from a date certain (October 31) to the last day of the adjuster's birth month. Specifies a phased

transition.

- 44 **Continuing education**. Institutes continuing education requirements for insurance adjuster licensees (24 hours biennially, with 3 of those hours in ethics).
- **45 Nonresidents**. Amends the section to accord with the language of the NAIC model.
- **46 Catastrophe situations**. Amends the section to accord with the language of the NAIC model.
- **47 Causes**. Amends the subdivision to accord with the language of the NAIC model.
- **48 Notice**. Amends the subdivision to accord with the language of the NAIC model.
- 49 Suspension or revocation of license or permit. Provides for disciplinary action to be taken against a business entity's insurance adjuster license under certain circumstances.
- 50 **Records of independent adjusters to be retained**. Provides that an independent adjuster must maintain and appropriately retain a copy of each contract with an insurer or self-insurer.
- 51 Standards of conduct of independent adjusters. Provides that an independent insurance adjuster licensee must act ethically and appropriately and comply with all applicable privacy and information security laws.
- **52 Reporting of actions of independent adjuster**. Provides that a licensed independent adjuster must report administrative or criminal actions within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter.
- **53 Insured's right to cancel**. Changes terminology by replacing "homeowner" with "insured."
- 54 Writing required; notice of right to cancel; notice of cancellation. Changes terminology by replacing "homeowner" with "insured."
- **S5 Return of payments; compensation**. Changes terminology by replacing "homeowner" with "insured." Adds 24 hours to the time period for which a public adjuster is entitled to compensation for performing emergency services.
- 56 Education; course curriculum. Adopts the required course curriculum for real estate prelicense education from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2809, which this bill repeals.
- **57 Licensing: continuing education and instruction**. Amends the subdivision to give the commissioner discretion on whether to approve education programs approved by Minnesota Continuing Legal Education. Changes terminology by replacing "sponsor" with "education provider." Clarifies that an approved prelicense 30-hour broker course may be used for continuing education credit in certain circumstances.
- **58 Definitions**. Adopts definitions related to real estate appraisers, including some from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals. Defines "analysis," "applicant," "appraisal assignment," "Appraisal Foundation or foundation," "appraisal or real estate appraisal," "appraisal report," "Appraisal Standards Board," "Appraiser Qualifications Board," "Board," "certified general real property appraiser," "certified residential real property appraiser," "commissioner," "Federal Appraisal Subcommittee," "federal financial institutions regulatory agency," "federally related transaction," "Poundation appraisal organization," "licensed real property appraiser," "market analysis," "person," "real estate,"

"real estate appraiser or real property appraiser," "real estate related financial transaction," "real property," "residential real property or residential real estate," "standards of professional practice," "trainee real property appraiser," "transaction value," "USPAP," and "valuation" for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 82B (Real Estate Appraisers).

- **59 Members**. Updates terminology by replacing "registered" with "trainee." Makes a technical wording change ("shall" to "must").
- **60 Cancellation of license**. Adopts language concerning real estate appraiser license cancellation from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- 61 **Reinstatement of license**. Adopts language concerning real estate appraiser license reinstatement from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- 62 Withdrawal of license or application. Adopts language concerning real estate appraiser license or application withdrawal from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- **63 Failure to renew license**. Adopts language concerning real estate appraiser license renewal failure from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- 64 Fees to federal appraisal subcommittee. Adopts language concerning federal appraisal subcommittee fees from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- **65 Examinations**. Amends the section to clarify that both the content of a real estate appraiser licensing examination and its passing score must conform to federal requirements. Adopts additional language concerning real estate appraiser examinations and cheating from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- 66 Certified residential real property appraiser. Amends the subdivision to conform with federal requirements by replacing "introduction to word processing/spreadsheets" with "computer science."
- **67 Certified general real property appraiser**. Amends the subdivision to conform with federal requirements by replacing "introduction to word processing/spreadsheets" with "computer science."
- 68 All appraiser license levels. Amends the subdivision to conform with federal requirements by specifying that an appraiser prelicense education course must be at least 15 hours long.
- 69 Course completion certificates for real estate appraiser license. Adopts language concerning real estate appraiser continuing education course completion certificates from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- **70 License renewals**. Makes a technical wording change ("shall" to "must"). Amends the subdivision to conform with federal requirements by clarifying that an approved real estate appraiser prelicense education course may be taken for continuing education credit, but the 15-hour USPAP course cannot be used to satisfy the 7-hour USPAP update requirement. Amends the subdivision to conform with federal requirements by stating that a licensed real estate appraiser returning from active duty has 90 days to complete any outstanding continuing education requirements.
- **Rules**. Changes terminology by replacing "sponsor" with "education provider."
- 72 **Standards of conduct**. Adopts language concerning real estate appraiser conduct from Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.

- 73 **Revocations**. Adopts language concerning real estate appraiser license revocations Minnesota Rules, chapter 2808, which this bill repeals.
- **Repealer**. Repeals an item that is no longer necessary because it defines a term that no longer appears in the amended statute (§ 72B.02, subd. 12), items that are being replaced with enhanced versions of the same material (§§ 72B.04 and 82B.02), and rules that are no longer necessary (chs. 2808 and 2809) because any material needed from them will now appear in statute.