

ALABAMA HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE COMMISSION

Monday, August 1, 2011

2:00 P.M.

Minutes/Action Items

Opening Remarks – Upon entering the meeting, Governor Bentley greeted the audience members and the Affordable Homeowners Insurance Commission (AHIC). After personally greeting everyone, the Governor spoke for approximately 20 minutes. During that time, he personally charged the Commission with finding solutions to the insurance problems facing Alabama's homeowners. The Governor said the solutions found by the Committee should be agreed upon by consumers, the insurance industry, and other stake holders. Further, he encouraged the Commission to think out-of-the-box when addressing these problems. If solutions are found, Governor Bentley said he would then call a Special Session by the Legislature to ensure any of the applicable findings are addressed legislatively. Before turning the meeting over to the Chairman of the Commission, Judge Tim Russell, the Governor took a few questions about his thoughts on insurance in Alabama.

After receiving control of the meeting from the Governor, Judge Russell asked each of the Members to stand to introduce themselves and explain what experience they have that makes their addition to the Commission valuable. As the Members stood to introduce themselves, it became clear that each Member brought forth various levels of involvement with the insurance industry. Some Members of the Commission were industry experts, some dealt with the issue through the legislative process, and some Members were consumers who knew they needed insurance for their homes. At the conclusion of introductions, Judge Russell reminded the Commission that they were personally selected by Governor Bentley to address an array of problems which would not have a single solution. These problems will most likely require regulatory, legislative, and market-based solutions.

Consumer Forums – At the request of Governor Bentley, the Commission was encouraged to listen to the problems that homeowners are facing throughout the state. It was pointed out that while insurance problems may have initiated in Mobile and Baldwin counties, there are serious insurance issues statewide with affordability and accessibility- especially after the tornado outbreak earlier this spring. It is clear to all now that while the peril may be different, insurance affordability and accessibility are difficulties faced by all Alabamians, regardless of their proximity to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Commission, therefore, agreed the consumer forums should be held in Mobile, Dothan, Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Decatur. Each region will have at least one Regional Chairperson. These are outlined below:

Mobile - Senator Ben Brooks

Dothan - Commissioner Julie Magee

Tuscaloosa - Representative A.J. McCampbell

Birmingham - Representative Mike Hill, K. Carl Smith, and Elizabeth Huntley

Decatur - Joe Demos

The Regional Chairpersons are selecting dates as soon as possible.

In order to be of the most convenience to homeowners, the meetings will be held on Monday or Tuesday evenings. Further, in an effort to ensure that time is maximized, members asked for a limit on the number of speakers (first 50 to sign up) and the time given to them (3 minutes) to voice their concerns. These requests were agreed upon.

Working Meetings – At the conclusion of the consumer forums, the Commission will convene in Montgomery to hear a series of experts and representatives from the insurance community. The participants may include: representatives from the insurance industry, representatives from the reinsurance industry, realtors, homebuilders, modeling agencies, and at the request of Michelle Kurtz, a representative of the Hurricane Homeowners Insurance Initiative (HHII), consumer advocacy experts such as Amy Carter and Robert Hunter. Concerns were raised that the Commission may need to provide video conference accommodations to some of these participants. A date for the first working meeting will be set at the conclusion of the consumer forums.

Additional Notes:

- Representative Mike Hill said he wants to bring the Legislative Reference Service (LRS) or the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) to expedite any potential legislation.
- Members would like the consumer forums to be videotaped so if they miss a meeting they can review the video afterwards. Commissioner Magee will look into the video equipment.
- Elizabeth Huntley discussed using software to allow Members to view a calendar and respond as to whether they would be able to attend a meeting.
- Members of the Commission were asked if they would like to submit new email addresses, specifically for AHIC communications.
- The Commission agreed that public notices about their meetings and work will be issued from the Governor's Press Office, the AHIC's Executive Assistant and the Regional Chairperson.

After no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Affordable Homeowners Insurance Commission Members

Gregg Armstrong	Locust Fork
Sid Belcher	Montgomery
Rux Bentley	Columbiana
Senator Ben Brooks	Mobile
John Caylor	Huntsville
Joe Demos	Huntsville
Gary Ellis	Gulf Shores
Representative Joe Faust	Fairhope
Darius Foster	Birmingham

Aubrey Fuller	Summerdale
Jim Higdon	Birmingham
Representative Mike Hill	Columbiana
Elizabeth Huntley	Selma
Michelle Kurtz	Daphne
Tom Malone	Montgomery
Representative A.J. McCampbell	Gallion
Revenue Commissioner Julie Magee	Mobile/Montgomery
Representative Steve McMillan	Bay Minette
Wayne Parker	Huntsville
Geoff Plott	Tuscaloosa
Don Price	Montgomery
Insurance Commissioner Jim Ridling	Montgomery
Joe Ruffer	Mobile
Honorable Judge Tim Russell (Chair)	Foley
Carl Schneider	Mobile
Neal Shipman	Double Springs
Steve Simpkins	Mobile
K. Carl Smith	Trussville
Jerry Workman	Birmingham