

## P&C

The division itself hasn't put forward any P&C-related bills this session, but there are several that are interesting:

- HB 3149 A passed the House 47-10 recently; it creates a new system for allowing personal vehicle sharing programs. It's based on a California law. This bill has support in both chambers. The Senate committee is waiting on some final amendments before it moves the legislation.
- SB 608, which would create a rural medical liability subsidy fund to subsidize medical malpractice premiums in rural areas appeared to be dead until this morning: some amendments just popped up, breathing life into the bill.
- HB 3141 would make helmets optional for motor cycle riders over the age of 21. The initial draft doesn't touch on insurance, but there are several sets of amendments apparently, and all seem to require that a rider who chooses not to wear a helmet must purchase some level of PIP coverage. Several legislators testified in support of the bill during its public hearing, so this bill may well have sufficient support to go forward.

## LIFE

The division does have a couple of life insurance bills that we're hoping the legislature will enact:

- HB 2095, which passed the House 48-10 a couple of weeks ago, would make Oregon the 39<sup>th</sup> or 40<sup>th</sup> state to become a full member of the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact, which should make it easier for multistate life insurers to get products approved for sale in Oregon. We have support for this legislation in both chambers, and on the relevant committees, so we don't expect much in the way of roadblocks.
- HB 2087 updates the coverage limits for and laws surrounding the Oregon Life and Health Guaranty fund to fit the most recent NAIC models. This will result in a slight increase in fees to some member insurers, but their representatives in the capitol are all strongly in favor. The increases in coverage and improvements in administration are substantial. There was a small amount of pushback on the committee given the slight increase in fees, so after the first public hearing the House Business and Transportation committee set it over for a work session at their next meeting. They passed it yesterday unanimously.

## HEALTH

As is probably to be expected, there is a lot of interest in health insurance right now, particularly in the area of health insurance rate review. A couple of bills (SBs 717 and 718) have been proposed in the Senate to modify the Oregon Insurance Division's rate review process. Senate Bill 717, with a currently proposed set of amendments, would require public contested case hearings for health insurance rate filings meeting certain characteristics. Senate Bill 718 would specify that any meeting between the Director "or any employee [of the department] with decision-making authority" and a

representative of an insurer who has filed a health rate filing must be a public meeting under Oregon's public meetings law. We have concerns about both pieces of legislation, but the Oregon Insurance Division stands ready to implement any requirements the legislature believes appropriate. We are doing our best to make sure that the legislature moves forward with the best possible information.

SB 89 is our conformance bill for Federal Health Reform. It brings the state into compliance with the Affordable Care Act, thereby avoiding the confusion that might otherwise result from contradictory state and federal laws. It also extends protections against rescission of policies for unintentional misrepresentations to all types of health insurance, rather than just health benefit plans, going beyond what federal laws require. We don't think it's likely this bill will run into any hurdles, unless it becomes a political target. The reality is we are required to administer federal law regardless of whether we pass SB 89.

SB 94 is a bill dealing with administrative simplification, extending the provisions of a previous law (HB 2009) to groups other than just health care providers. It now includes, among other groups, TPAs and health care clearinghouses. This legislation is on the fast track; Sen. Bates in particular is strongly on board. Our rulemaking on the first of what will be several "companion guides" is ongoing and will be completed shortly. Relatively soon Oregon's health insurance payment, eligibility inquiry, and other administrative processes will be completely electronic and standardized, saving us millions a year.

SB 719 touches not just health but all areas of insurance, as it would remove the exemption for insurance from Oregon's unlawful trade practices act. This would have the effect of adding an additional regulator (Oregon's Attorney General) to the regulatory system for insurance in Oregon. It would also guarantee attorney fee recovery for a prevailing plaintiff in private actions against insurers.