

TITLE 11

DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE

DIVISION OF INSURANCE

CHAPTER 1

ADMINISTRATION

Authority

N.J.S.A. 17:1-8.1 and 17:1-15e.

Source and Effective Date

R.2001 d.75, effective January 31, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 4184(a), 33 N.J.R. 794(a), 33 N.J.R. 1920(a).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 1, Administration, expires on January 31, 2006.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 1, Plan of Organization of the Department of Insurance, was adopted as R.1971 d.11, effective January 20, 1971, and codified at N.J.A.C. 11:1 Subchapter 1. Notice was not published in the New Jersey Register.

Subchapter 3, Cancellation for Nonpayment of Premium Where Producer of Record Has Advanced Premium, was adopted as R.1972 d.168, effective August 25, 1972. See: 4 N.J.R. 128(b), 4 N.J.R. 221(b).

Subchapter 2, Filings; Property-Liability, was adopted as R.1973 d.120, effective May 1, 1973. See: 5 N.J.R. 113(a), 5 N.J.R. 190(b).

Subchapter 5, Administrative Orders and Declarations, was adopted as Emergency New Rule, R.1974 d.237, and the Motor Vehicle Liability Security Fund was declared exhausted, effective August 22, 1974. See: 6 N.J.R. 351(d).

Subchapter 4, Unfair Discrimination, was adopted as R.1975 d.128, effective September 1, 1975. See: 7 N.J.R. 168(a), 7 N.J.R. 276(b).

Subchapter 6, New Jersey Property-Liability Insurance Guaranty Association, was adopted as R.1975 d.170, effective July 1, 1975. See: 7 N.J.R. 229(a), 7 N.J.R. 334(b).

Subchapter 10, Insurance Licensing of Financial Institutions, was adopted as R.1976 d.166, effective May 27, 1976. See: 8 N.J.R. 233(a), 8 N.J.R. 300(c).

Subchapter 11, Conduct Constituting Violations by Brokers and Agents, was adopted as R.1976 d.235, effective July 22, 1976. See: 8 N.J.R. 287(e), 8 N.J.R. 398(b).

Subchapter 7, Service and Placement Fees, was adopted as R.1976 d.266, effective August 23, 1976. See: 7 N.J.R. 468(a), 8 N.J.R. 422(b).

Subchapter 8, Property-Casualty Agents, was adopted as R.1976 d.267, effective October 1, 1976. See: 7 N.J.R. 469(a), 8 N.J.R. 423(a).

Subchapter 12, Corporate and Partnership Licensee Requirements, was adopted as R.1976 d.412, effective December 16, 1976, operative March 1, 1977. See: 8 N.J.R. 421(c), 9 N.J.R. 24(b).

Subchapter 13, Disclosure Agreements for Motor Club Service Contracts Sold in Connection with Automobile Insurance Policies, was adopted as R.1982 d.177, effective June 7, 1982, operative August 15, 1982. See: 13 N.J.R. 879(b), 14 N.J.R. 579(a).

Subchapter 14, Insurance Licensees, was adopted as R.1982 d.336, effective October 4, 1982, operative November 19, 1982. See: 14 N.J.R. 748(a), 14 N.J.R. 1099(b).

Subchapter 9, Agents for Life Insurance, Health Insurance and Annuity Contracts-Temporary Licensing, was adopted as R.1983 d.603, effective January 3, 1984. See: 15 N.J.R. 1828(a), 16 N.J.R. 49(c).

The Executive Order No. 66(1978) expiration date of Subchapter 5, Administrative Orders and Declarations, was extended by gubernatorial directive from June 6, 1984 to September 6, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 1451(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 5, Administrative Orders and Declarations, was readopted as R.1984 d.426, effective October 1, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 1689(a), 16 N.J.R. 2677(a), 17 N.J.R. 2566(a).

Subchapter 15, Petitions for Rules, was adopted as R.1984 d.511, effective November 5, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 2224(b), 16 N.J.R. 3033(b).

Subchapter 10, Insurance Licensing of Financial Institutions, was repealed by R.1985 d.69, effective February 19, 1985. See: 16 N.J.R. 2919(a), 17 N.J.R. 458(a).

Subchapter 20, Cancellation and Nonrenewal of Property and Casualty/Liability Insurance Policies, was adopted as Emergency New Rule, R.1985 d.507, effective September 17, 1985, to expire November 16, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 2460(a). The provisions of R.1985 d.507 were readopted without change as R.1985 d.627 effective November 16, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 2978(b). The provisions of R.1985 d.626 were readopted without change as R.1986 d.27, effective January 14, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 419(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 20, Cancellation and Nonrenewal of Property and Casualty/Liability Insurance Policies, was readopted as R.1985 d.627, effective November 16, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 2978(b).

Subchapter 21, Loss Reserve Opinions, was adopted as R.1985 d.711, effective January 21, 1986. See: 17 N.J.R. 2596(a), 18 N.J.R. 196(b).

Subchapter 18, Approval of Business Names, was adopted as R.1986 d.10, effective February 3, 1986. See: 17 N.J.R. 41(a), 18 N.J.R. 278(a).

Subchapter 19, Branch Offices, was adopted as R.1986 d.11, effective February 3, 1986. See: 17 N.J.R. 42(a), 18 N.J.R. 280(a).

Subchapter 20, Cancellation and Nonrenewal of Property and Casualty/Liability Insurance Policies, was repealed, and Subchapter 20, Cancellation and Nonrenewal of Commercial and Homeowners' Insurance Policies, was adopted as new rules, effective July 7, 1986, with portions operative July 28, 1986, and Subchapter 22, Prohibition of Certain Cancellation and Nonrenewal Activity, was adopted as R.1986 d.272, effective July 7, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 457(b), 18 N.J.R. 1388(a).

Subchapter 16, Requirements for Filing a Downward Deviation in Currently Approved Rates, was adopted as R.1986 d.478, effective December 15, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 1998(a), 18 N.J.R. 2458(a).

Subchapter 25, Official Department Mailing List: Address Information, was adopted as R.1988 d.64, effective February 1, 1988. See: 19 N.J.R. 2236(a), 20 N.J.R. 294(b).

Subchapter 9, Agents for Life Insurance, Health Insurance and Annuity Contracts-Temporary Licensing, Subchapter 14, Insurance Licensees, Subchapter 18, Approval of Business Names, and Subchapter 19, Branch Offices, were repealed by R.1988 d.186, effective April 18, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 225(c), 20 N.J.R. 904(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 20, Cancellation and Nonrenewal of Commercial and Homeowners' Insurance Policies, and Subchapter 22, Prohibition of Certain Cancellation and

Nonrenewal Activity, were readopted as R.1988 d.341, effective June 24, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 1061(a), 20 N.J.R. 1720(a).

Subchapter 10, Admission Requirements for Foreign and Alien Property and Casualty Insurers, was adopted as new rules by R.1989 d.329, effective June 19, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 426(a), 21 N.J.R. 1702(a).

Subchapter 26, Annual Publication of Insurer Profitability Information, was adopted as R.1989 d.538, effective October 16, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 2181(a), 21 N.J.R. 3297(c).

Subchapter 3, Cancellation for Nonpayment of Premium Where Producer of Record Has Advanced Premium, Subchapter 7, Service and Placement Fees, Subchapter 8, Property-Casualty Agents, and Subchapter 13, Disclosure Agreements for Motor Club Service Contracts Sold in Connection with Automobile Insurance Policies, were repealed by R.1990 d.11, effective January 2, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 1317(a), 22 N.J.R. 30(b).

Subchapter 28, Formation of a Domestic Property and Casualty Insurance Corporation (Stock or Mutual) or Reciprocal Insurance Exchange, was adopted as R.1990 d.162, effective March 19, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 3607(a), 22 N.J.R. 954(b), 22 N.J.R. 1266(a).

Subchapter 29, Temporary Certificate of Authority, was adopted as R.1991 d.15, effective January 7, 1991. See: 22 N.J.R. 2453(a), 23 N.J.R. 100(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 1, Administration, was readopted as R.1991 d.101, effective January 31, 1991. See: 22 N.J.R. 3686(a), 23 N.J.R. 690(b).

Subchapter 32, Fees was adopted as new rules by R.1991 d.303, effective June 17, 1991, operative July 1, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 825(a), 23 N.J.R. 1948(a).

Subchapter 6, New Jersey Property-Liability Insurance Guaranty Association, was repealed, and a new Subchapter 6, New Jersey Property-Liability Insurance Guaranty Association Assessment Premium Surcharge was adopted as new rules by R.1991 d.461, effective September 3, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 823(b), 23 N.J.R. 2638(a).

Subchapter 33, Public Advocate Reimbursement Disputes, was adopted as new rules by R.1993 d.179, effective April 19, 1993. See: 24 N.J.R. 2706(a), 25 N.J.R. 1764(c).

Subchapter 35, Insurance Holding Company Systems, was adopted as emergency new rules by R.1993 d.445, effective August 16, 1993, to expire October 15, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 4275(a). The provisions of R.1993 d.445 were readopted without change as R.1993 d.554, effective October 15, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 4275(a), 25 N.J.R. 5170(b).

Subchapter 36, Examination of Insurers, was adopted as emergency new rules by R.1993 d.446, effective August 16, 1993, to expire October 15, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 4284(a). The provisions of R.1993 d.446 were readopted as R.1993 d.555, effective October 15, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 4284(a), 25 N.J.R. 5180(a).

Subchapter 3, Disability Discrimination Grievance Procedure, was adopted as new rules by R.1993 d.618, effective December 6, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 1327(a), 25 N.J.R. 5666(b). Subchapter 3 is exempt from expiration under 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

Subchapter 34, Surplus Lines: Exportable List, was adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.7, effective January 3, 1994. See: 24 N.J.R. 4331(a), 26 N.J.R. 236(b).

Subchapter 31, Surplus Lines Insurer Eligibility, was adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.102, effective February 22, 1994. See: 25 N.J.R. 1819(a), 26 N.J.R. 1096(a).

Subchapter 37, Licensing of Public Adjusters, was adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.207, effective April 18, 1994. See: 25 N.J.R. 5432(a), 26 N.J.R. 327(a), 26 N.J.R. 1711(a).

Subchapter 7, Medical Malpractice Reporting Requirements, was adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.493, effective September 19, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 1433(a), 26 N.J.R. 3864(a).

Subchapter 39, Disclosure of Material Transactions, was adopted as new rules by R.1995 d.234, effective May 1, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 816(a), 27 N.J.R. 1802(a).

Subchapter 21A, Actuarial Opinion and Memorandum for Life/Health Insurers, was adopted as new rules by R.1995 d.605, effective November 20, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 2998(a), 27 N.J.R. 4720(a).

Subchapter 26, Annual Publication of Insurer Profitability Information, Subchapter 29, Temporary Certificate of Authority, and Subchapter 33, Public Advocate Reimbursement Disputes, were repealed by R.1996 d.116, effective March 4, 1996. See: 27 N.J.R. 4121(a), 28 N.J.R. 1382(a).

Subchapter 38, Oversight of Fireman's Relief Associations, was adopted as new rules by R.1996 d.125, effective March 4, 1996, operative March 4, 1996, except for N.J.A.C. 11:1-38.4 which shall be operative January 1, 1997. See: 27 N.J.R. 634(a), 28 N.J.R. 1384(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 1, Administration, was readopted as R.1996 d.116, effective January 31, 1996. See: 27 N.J.R. 4121(a), 28 N.J.R. 1382(a).

Petition for Rulemaking. See: 29 N.J.R. 707(c), 29 N.J.R. 948(b).

Subchapter 41, Surety Bonds for Contracts Involving the State, Local Contracting Units, Boards of Education, State Colleges and County Colleges, was adopted as R.1996 d.496, effective October 21, 1996. See: 28 N.J.R. 3505(a), 28 N.J.R. 4582(a).

Subchapter 38, Oversight of Firemen's Relief Associations, was adopted as R.1996 d.125, effective March 4, 1996, operative March 4, 1996, except for N.J.A.C. 11:1-38.4 which became operative July 1, 1997. See: 27 N.J.R. 634(a), 28 N.J.R. 1384(a), 29 N.J.R. 425(a).

Subchapter 43, Unusual Hardship For Covered Claims Under The New Jersey Property-Liability Insurance Guaranty Association and New Jersey Surplus Lines Insurance Guaranty Fund, was adopted as R.1997 d.512, effective December 1, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 3765(a), 29 N.J.R. 5065(b).

Subchapter 24, Use of Credit Cards, Charge Cards, Debit Cards Or Direct Account Deduction (Alternative Payment Method) To Pay Insurance Premiums, was adopted as R.1998 d.276, effective June 1, 1998. See: 29 N.J.R. 3588(a), 30 N.J.R. 2003(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 1, Administration, was readopted as R.2001 d.75, effective January 31, 2001. See: 32 N.J.R. 4184(a), 33 N.J.R. 794(a).

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APPENDIX

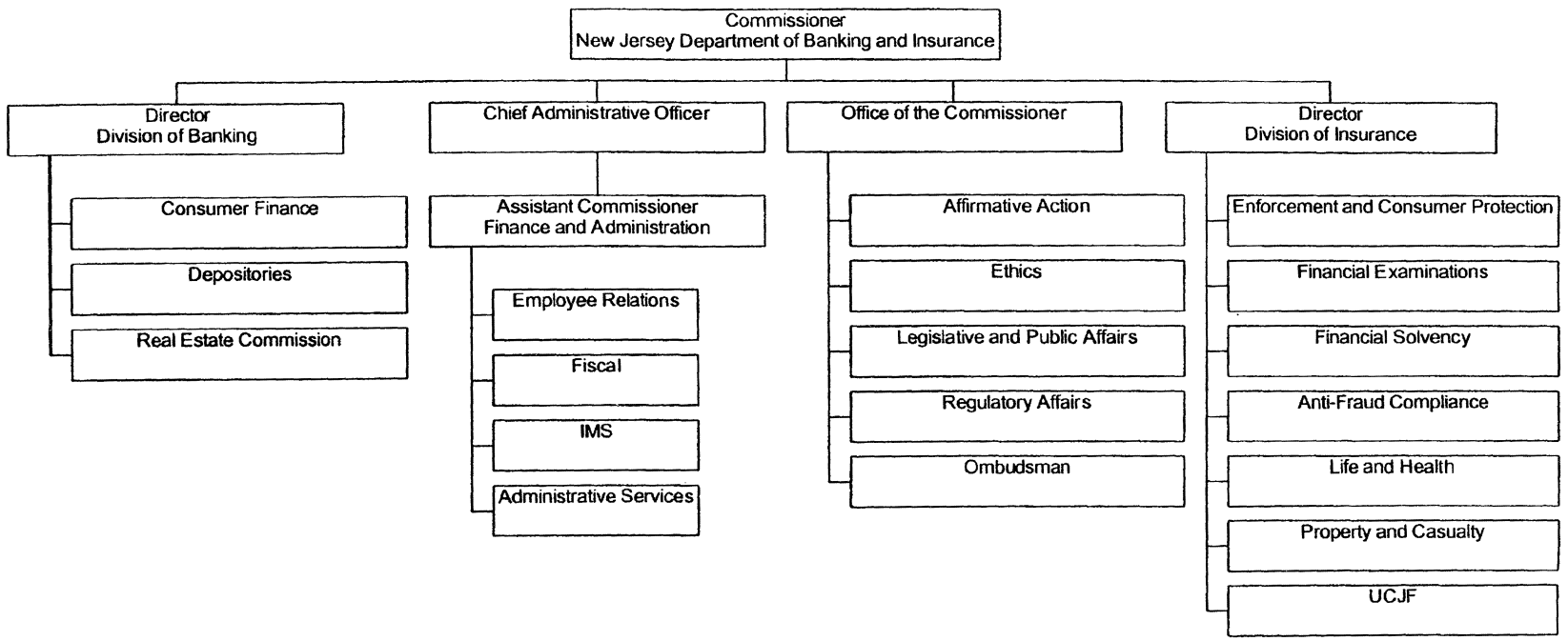
SUBCHAPTER 1. ORGANIZATION

11:1-1.1 Organization

(a) The organization of the Department of Banking and Insurance appears below.

(b) The mission of the Department of Banking and Insurance is to regulate the banking, insurance and real estate industries in a professional and timely manner that protects and educates consumers and promotes the growth, financial stability and efficiency of those industries.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE



September 7, 2000

Amended by R.1973 d.195, effective July 24, 1973.
 See: 5 N.J.R. 282(c).
 Amended by R.1974 d.89, effective April 9, 1974.

See: 6 N.J.R. 199(a).
 Amended by R.1988 d.1, effective December 1, 1987.
 See: 20 N.J.R. 99(a).

11:1-43.4 Request for review by the Commissioner

(a) A claimant may request a review by the Commissioner of a determination of the Association or Fund, as applicable, denying a request for a finding of unusual hardship within 20 days of receipt of the Association's or Fund's written decision by submitting to the Commissioner a request for review addressed to:

Office of Financial Solvency
New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance
20 West State Street
PO Box 325
Trenton, NJ 08625-0325

(b) A request for review shall include those items presented in the initial request, a written statement explaining why the determination of the Association or Fund denying the initial request was incorrect, and any additional documentation in support of the request for review.

1. A copy of the request for review shall be simultaneously filed by the claimant with the Association or Fund, as applicable.
2. The Association or Fund, upon receipt of the request for review, shall forward the claimant's file to the Commissioner for his or her review.

(c) The Commissioner's final decision shall be provided to the Association or Fund, as applicable, and shall be mailed to the claimant or his or her legal representative by certified mail, return receipt requested and by regular mail. The Commissioner's decision shall constitute a final agency decision.

11:1-43.5 Confidentiality

All documents provided by a claimant pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:1-43.3 shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public inspection or copying pursuant to the "Right-to-Know" law, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

SUBCHAPTER 44. (RESERVED)**SUBCHAPTER 45. NOTICE TO POLICYHOLDERS OF CONSUMER INSURANCE RATE INCREASES****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 17:1-8.1, 17:1-15e and 17:29A-53.

Source and Effective Date

R.2003 d.496, effective December 15, 2003.
See: 35 N.J.R. 3517(a), 35 N.J.R. 5595(a).

11:1-45.1 Purpose and scope

(a) This subchapter sets forth the form and manner of notice to be provided to policyholders and the public when an insurer or rating organization files for a consumer insurance rate increase, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 17:29A-53b.

(b) This subchapter shall apply to all insurers and rating organizations that file for a consumer insurance rate increase, as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:29A-53b. This subchapter shall not apply if the proposed rate change pertains to:

1. A prior approval rate filing made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:29A-46.6 or 17:36-5.35;
2. Rating system changes made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:29A-46.1 et seq.;
3. A rate filing made pursuant to any statutory change in coverage provided under a policy of private passenger automobile insurance; or
4. A rate filing by the New Jersey Personal Automobile Insurance Plan.

11:1-45.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

"Consumer insurance rate increase" means a prior approval rate filing that:

1. For private passenger automobile insurance, would result in an increase in rates for any group of coverages, as defined in N.J.A.C. 11:3-16.2;
2. For homeowners' insurance, would result in an increase in rates for any policy form, that is, owners, tenants, or condominiums;
3. For personal lines property/casualty coverages, other than as set forth in 1 and 2 above, would result in a positive base rate change; and
4. For Medicare Supplemental coverages, would result in an increase for any of the standard coverage plans A through J or for any non-standard policy or certificate form used by the filer.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

“Insurer” means an entity authorized or admitted to transact insurance in this State pursuant to Titles 17 or 17B of the New Jersey Statutes.

“Medicare supplemental coverage” means coverage under a Medicare supplement policy, as defined in N.J.S.A. 17B:26A-1e.

“Personal lines property/casualty coverages” means insurance issued for personal, family or household purposes, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 11:13-1.2(a)2.

“Private passenger automobile insurance” means direct insurance on an “automobile,” as defined in N.J.S.A. 39:6A-2.

“Rating organization” means every person or persons, corporation, partnership, company, society, or association engaged in the business of ratemaking for two or more insurers, and licensed as such pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:29A-2.

11:1-45.3 Form of notice required

(a) Subject to N.J.A.C. 11:1-45.1(b), insurers shall provide notice, in the form set forth in Exhibit A in the Appendix to this subchapter, incorporated herein by reference, of any filing for a consumer insurance rate increase, as defined in N.J.S.A. 17:29A-53b, filed directly by the insurer or on its behalf by a rating organization. The notice shall be communicated through either regular or electronic mail to the named policyholders who use the products and services subject to the consumer insurance rate increase, and shall be provided within 10 business days of the filing with the Department. In the case of regular mail, the notice shall be sent to the last known address of the named policyholder. The insurer may request policyholders to supply their electronic mail address, if they have one. If the policyholder does not have an electronic mailing address, then the insurer shall use regular mail. Insurers shall, as part of any filing for a consumer insurance rate increase, affirm that they are aware of and will comply with this notice requirement.

(b) Insurers shall not be responsible to assure receipt of the notice by all policyholders, provided the insurer has complied with N.J.A.C. 11:1-45.3. The failure of any policyholders to receive the notice shall not impact the effectiveness of any rate change that may subsequently be approved.

(c) Rating organizations shall publish notice, in the form set forth in Exhibit A in the Appendix to this subchapter, of any filing for a consumer insurance rate increase, in three newspapers of general circulation in this State, and on the rating organization’s website, within 10 business days of the filing with the Department.

(d) Nothing in this rule prevents the insurer from supplementing its notice with any other explanatory information that it may wish to supply to its policyholders with respect to the rate increase.

11:1-45.4 Penalties

Failure to comply with this subchapter shall result in the imposition of penalties as authorized by law, including, but not limited to, penalties authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33-2.

APPENDIX

Dear Policyholder:

(Salutation may be omitted by rating organizations.)

This is to provide notice as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:29A-53b that (COMPANY NAME) filed on (DATE) with the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance a request for a rate increase in the amount ____% for (TYPE OF COVERAGE(S)).

[For PPA only] Under the proposed filing, the average liability-only policy would see a rate change of ____%. The average Full Coverage policy (includes comprehensive and collision coverage) will see a rate change of ____%. The impact of the filing on your rates may vary substantially, depending on the terms of your policy and your individual circumstances.

[For homeowners’ only] Under the proposed filing, the average Owners policy (or equivalent term used by the filer) will see a rate change of ____%. The average Tenants policy (or equivalent term used by the filer) will see a rate change of ____%. The average Condominiums policy (or equivalent term used by the filer) will see a rate change of ____%. The impact of the filing on your rates may vary substantially, depending on the terms of your policy and your individual circumstances.

[For Medicare Supplemental coverages only, list the increase for each of the standard plans A through J, and the increase for each non-standard coverage policy or certificate form used by the filer to which a requested rate increase applies]. The impact of the filing on your rates may vary substantially, depending on the terms of your policy and your individual circumstances.

[For all other personal lines property/casualty coverages] Under the proposed filing, the average policy will see a rate change of ____%. The impact of the filing on your rates may vary substantially, depending on the terms of your policy and your individual circumstances.

The request for a rate increase is subject to review and approval by the Department of Banking and Insurance pursuant to law, and the request ultimately may not be approved or may not be approved for the full amount requested. If approved in whole or in part, the rate change will not affect existing policies until they come up for renewal.