

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 735

BY SENATOR PETERSON

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT. Provides relative to the deputy commissioner of consumer advocacy. (8/1/12)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:696(A), relative to the deputy commissioner of consumer
3 advocacy, to provide relative to the commissioner's appointment; to provide for the
4 commissioner's salary; to provide for staff; to provide for the offices; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 36:696(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §696. Deputy commissioner for consumer advocacy; functions; office of consumer
9 advocacy

10 A. There is hereby created an office of consumer advocacy in the Department
11 of Insurance. This office shall be under the direction of the deputy commissioner for
12 consumer advocacy, who shall be appointed by the commissioner of insurance with
13 ~~consent of~~ **advice and concurrence of** the Senate **and House committees on**
14 **insurance** and who shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner at a salary fixed
15 by the commissioner, which salary **and benefits shall be the same as the majority**
16 **of the deputy commissioners of the Department of Insurance** ~~shall not exceed the~~
17 ~~amount approved for such position by the legislature while in session.~~ The

1 commissioner of insurance shall appoint the deputy commissioner of consumer
 2 advocacy by October 1, 2007. **The office of consumer advocacy shall be staffed**
 3 **with no fewer than three full-time professional level civil service employees to**
 4 **manage complaints, inquiries and outreach. The office of consumer advocacy**
 5 **shall be staffed with no fewer than two full-time journeyman level civil service**
 6 **employees to assist the professional level employees. The office of consumer**
 7 **advocacy shall have an administrative assistant designated by the deputy**
 8 **commissioner who shall be responsible for coordinating and directing travel,**
 9 **scheduling, office management, and any other duties assigned by the deputy**
 10 **commissioner.** The office of consumer advocacy ~~may~~ **shall** be housed within the
 11 Louisiana Department of Insurance ~~or in~~ **and, as funding is available,** satellite
 12 offices **may be opened** as outlined in the rules and regulations to be implemented
 13 by the commissioner of insurance pursuant to this Section. The deputy commissioner
 14 for consumer advocacy shall be directly responsible to and shall perform his
 15 functions under the supervision and control of the commissioner of insurance.

16 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

DIGEST

Present law provides for the deputy commissioner for consumer advocacy in the Dept. of Insurance, who shall be appointed by the commissioner of insurance with consent of the Senate and who shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner at a salary fixed by the commissioner.

Proposed law retains present law. Provides, however, that the selection of the deputy commissioner will be with the advice and concurrence of the Senate and House committees on insurance.

Present law provides that the deputy commissioner shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner at a salary fixed by the commissioner.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the salary and benefits shall be the same as the majority of the deputy commissioners of the Dept. of Insurance.

Proposed law provides that the office of consumer advocacy shall be staffed with no fewer than three full-time professional-level civil service employees to handle complaints, inquires and outreach. The office of consumer advocacy shall be staffed with no fewer than two full-time journeyman-level civil service employees to assist the professional level employees. The office of consumer advocacy shall have an administrative assistant designated by the

deputy commissioner to handle travel, scheduling, office management, and any other duties assigned by the deputy commissioner.

Present law provides that the office of consumer advocacy may be housed within the La Dept of Insurance or in satellite offices as outlined in the rules and regulations implemented by the commissioner pursuant to present law.

Proposed law provides that the office of consumer advocacy shall be housed within the La Dept of Insurance and as funding is available, open satellite offices as outlined in the rules and regulations implemented by the commissioner.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 36:696(A))