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BULLETIN NO. 20-20

TO: **ALL NEW JERSEY LICENSED INSURANCE PRODUCERS, INSURANCE EDUCATION SCHOOLS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

FROM: **MARLENE CARIDE, COMMISSIONER**

RE: **EXTENSION OF INSURANCE PRODUCER LICENSE TERMS AND WAIVER OF INDEPENDENT MONITOR FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

On March 9, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency and public health emergency. Exec. Order No. 103 (March 9, 2020) 52 N.J.R. 549(a) (April 6, 2020) ("EO 103"). EO 103 was extended by Exec. Order No. 119 (April 7, 2020), ___ N.J.R. ___ ("EO 119"). Governor Murphy later directed New Jersey residents to remain in their homes unless leaving was essential through the issuance of Exec. Order No. 107 (March 21, 2020) 52 N.J.R. 554(a) (April 6, 2020) ("EO 107"). These Executive Orders were issued to contain the spread of the Coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic. The Department of Banking and Insurance ("Department") is issuing this Bulletin to provide guidance to all licensed insurance producers, and insurance education schools regarding license terms and continuing education requirements.

LICENSE TERMS

Entities whose insurance producer licenses expire on May 31, 2020 are granted a three-month extension to August 31, 2020 for this licensing term only. For the next licensing term, entities must renew their licenses by May 31, 2022.

Individuals whose insurance producer licenses expire on or between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020 are granted a three-month extension of their license term. For example, if a licensee must renew his or her license by April 30, 2020, for 2020, the licensee would have a three-month extension to July 31, 2020. For the next licensing term, the licensee must renew by his or her license by April 30, 2022.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

With respect to self-study courses taken from March 9, 2020 through June 30, 2020, the Department is waiving the requirement that self-study continuing education courses culminate in a monitored examination of the material presented. In order to facilitate social distancing as mandated by EO 107, the examination does not need to be monitored.

Please note that this position may be revised or extended at any time in the discretion of the Commissioner and does not constitute a statutory or regulatory exemption from licensure.

May 1, 2020
Date

Marlene Caride
Commissioner

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE

NOTICE OF RULE MODIFICATION

PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 103 (MURPHY)(MARCH 9, 2020)

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

Temporary Rule Suspension and Modification adopted by Marlene Caride, Commissioner, Department of Banking and Insurance

Date: May 1, 2020

Authority: N.J.S.A. App.A:9-45 & App. A:9-47; Exec. Order No. 103 (March 9, 2020) 52 N.J.R. 549(a) (April 6, 2020) ("EO 103"), extended by Exec. Order No. 119 (April 7, 2020), ___ N.J.R. ___ ("EO 119").

Effective Date: May 1, 2020

Expiration Date: Concurrent with end of EO 103

This is an emergency adoption of a temporary rule suspension and modification of the Department's Insurance rules at N.J.A.C. 11:1-37.3, N.J.A.C. 11:17-2.1, and N.J.A.C. 11:17-3.6. Section 6 of EO 103, issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, authorizes agency heads to waive/suspend/modify any existing rule, where the enforcement of the rule would be detrimental to the public welfare during the emergency, notwithstanding the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act or any law to the contrary. Pursuant to that authority, and with the approval of the Governor and in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management and the Commissioner of the Department of Health, the Department of Banking and Insurance is suspending certain rules as follows:

In order to create flexibility for insurance producers licensed under the New Jersey Producer Licensing Act of 2001, N.J.S.A. 17:22A-26 to -48, the Department is taking the following action. Full Text of the proposed modifications follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

11:17-2.1 Term of License

(a) The terms of individual producer licenses are established as set forth below.

1. The first term of licenses that are initially issued shall expire on the last day of the birth month of the producer in the year that will result in the term of the license being at least 18 months.

2. All such licenses shall thereafter expire biennially on the last day of the birth month of the individual producer that is two years subsequent to the preceding expiration date.

3. **For licensing terms ended on or between March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020, licensees are granted a three-month extension for this licensing term only. For subsequent licensing renewals, individuals must renew by the last day of their birth month.**

(b) The terms of business entity producer licenses are established as set forth below.

1. The first term of licenses initially issued shall expire on May 31 of the first year that will result in the term of the license being at least 18 months.

2. All such licenses shall thereafter expire biennially on the second May 31 date that is two years subsequent to the preceding expiration date.

3. **Entities whose licenses expire on May 31, 2020 must renew by August 31, 2020. This extension is for this licensing term only. For the next licensing term, entities must renew their licenses by May 31, 2022.**

11:17-3.6 Continuing Education

(c) Self-study courses shall be considered for approval if the program of instruction culminates in [a monitored] **an** examination of the subject presented. A monitored examination is not required for an interactive, online program that the Department determines has sufficient internal testing to validate the student's full comprehension of the material presented.

I find that modification of the rules above is necessary because enforcement of the existing rules would be detrimental to the public welfare during this emergency.

May 1, 2020
Date

Marlene Caride
Commissioner

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