



QUESTIONS FOR INSURANCE COMMISSIONER NOMINEE

By: Janet Kaminski Leduc, Senior Legislative Attorney
Alex Reger, Legislative Analyst II

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER (38A-7 & 38A-8)

The commissioner is responsible for (1) administering and enforcing laws regarding insurance companies and health care centers (i.e., HMOs); (2) protecting the public interest in insurance matters; (3) developing a review program to ensure the department's compliance with the minimum standards established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for effective financial surveillance and regulation of insurance companies and HMOs; (4) establishing a program to electronically transmit documents, including policy form and rate filings, to and from insurers; and (5) maintaining the confidentiality of information collected or prepared in connection with examinations and investigations of companies and consumer complaints.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you see as the primary mission of the Insurance Department? How will you balance the interests of the industry with the needs of consumers?
2. The Insurance Department's National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) accreditation is important for the state. On what factors is accreditation based, and are there any concerns about the department's ability to maintain accreditation?
3. Previous commissioners have been actively involved with the NAIC, serving on various committees. What is your experience with the NAIC, and how do you envision yourself working with it moving forward?
4. By law, the insurance commissioner, or her designee, serves as an ex-officio, non-voting board member of Access Health CT, the state's health insurance exchange under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Do you anticipate serving in this role or designating someone else?

5. How is the department working to understand and implement the ACA? Do you envision making any changes around its implementation? Please explain.
6. Over the past few years, the Insurance Department has faced increasing pressure to scrutinize proposed health insurance rate increases. The legislature is considering a bill (sSB 9) that would (a) expand the department's authority to review rates and (b) require it to hold public hearings on certain rate filings. What is your position on holding public hearings on rate filings and continuing to make the rate review process more transparent?
7. In recent years, the legislature has passed laws that give the state greater oversight of large, internationally active insurance companies (e.g., the holding company act, PA 12-103). The legislature is considering a bill this session (SB 23) that would allow the insurance commissioner to be the regulatory official (i.e., group-wide supervisor) overseeing these companies. How do you see your role going forward with an industry that continues to grow globally, while remaining a significant part of our local economy? How will you balance the need for a local regulatory presence with responsibilities that take you out-of-state on occasion?
8. Over the past several years, the legislature has considered legislation that would have Connecticut join the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact. Do you support such legislation? What are your concerns, if any, about Connecticut joining the compact? Alternatively, what benefits to the state do you perceive from joining?
9. The federal government has been more active lately in regulating the business of insurance. How does that impact the Insurance Department and its local regulatory control?
10. Do you think the Insurance Department has adequate staff to meet its responsibilities? Please explain.
11. The Insurance Department is funded by assessments on the industry, rather than from the General Fund. Some might argue this hinders your ability to effectively regulate the industry. What is your view on this?

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