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SB 436 AN ACT CONCERNING INSURER CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ANNUAL DISCLOSURES AND THE REGULATION OF RISK RETENTION GROUPS

Statement of the American Insurance Association

March 15, 2016

The American Insurance Association is a leading national trade association representing approximately 325 major property and casualty insurance companies that collectively underwrite nearly \$117 billion annually in direct property and casualty premiums nationwide. Our members range in size from small companies to the largest insurers with global operations and include insurance companies that write coverage in the state of Connecticut. We are pleased to provide comments regarding SB 436, which seeks to conform Connecticut statute to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Model Act.

The NAIC Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure (CGAD) Model Act and corresponding Model Regulation, both adopted in 2014, establish a core set of standards requiring insurers to provide detailed narratives of their corporate governance structures and practices on an annual basis. Such standards, which comprise the CGAD, must be provided to their lead state or domestic regulator in each state that has adopted the Model Act. A copy of the Model Act is provided for further review.

As consistency is important across the states, in general, AIA can support CGAD legislation as long as it conforms and is substantially similar to the NAIC Model Act. While the language incorporated in SB 436 is very close to the Model Act, there are two provisions in particular which should be amended in order to conform more exactly to the Model Act.

First, in section 1 (b) (1), SB 436 provides that insurer groups must submit the CGAD directly to the Insurance Commissioner in any state in which the insurer group has a domestic insurer. This is a deviation from the NAIC Model Act, which simply states that "a copy of the CGAD shall also be provided to the chief regulatory official of any state in which the insurance group has a domestic insurer, upon request of such official." We would prefer that the commissioner have the discretion to determine how the CGAD is provided in this instance and, as such, feel that this is best left up to regulation.

Additionally, SB 436 omits important language from the NAIC Model Act which provides that CGAD related information is “recognized by this state as being proprietary and to contain trade secrets.” It is critically important that this language is included in the bill to ensure that insurer competitiveness is not irreparably harmed. This, in fact, is one of the key tenets of the NAIC CGAD Model Act as the stated purpose of the Act is as follows: “ Provide for the confidential treatment of the corporate governance annual disclosure and related information that will contain confidential and sensitive information related to an insurer or insurance group’s internal operations and proprietary and trade secret information which, if made public, could potentially cause the insurer or insurer group competitive harm or disadvantage.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and share our concerns on this issue. For the foregoing reasons, AIA urges the Committee to adopt amendments to SB 436 to bring it into greater conformance with the NAIC Model Act.

Alison Cooper
Regional Vice President, Northeast Region

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ANNUAL DISCLOSURE MODEL ACT

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Section 1. Purpose and Scope.

A. The purpose of this Act is to:

1. Provide the Insurance Commissioner a summary of an insurer or insurance group's corporate governance structure, policies and practices to permit the Commissioner to gain and maintain an understanding of the insurer's corporate governance framework.
2. Outline the requirements for completing a corporate governance annual disclosure with the Insurance Commissioner.
3. Provide for the confidential treatment of the corporate governance annual disclosure and related information that will contain confidential and sensitive information related to an insurer or insurance group's internal operations and proprietary and trade secret information which, if made public, could potentially cause the insurer or insurance group competitive harm or disadvantage.

B. Nothing in this act shall be construed to prescribe or impose corporate governance standards and internal procedures beyond that which is required under applicable state corporate law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the Commissioner's authority, or the rights or obligations of third parties, under [INSERT EXAMINATION CITATION]

C. The requirements of this Act shall apply to all insurers domiciled in this state.

Drafting Note: The requirements of this Act are intended to apply to all commercial risk bearing entities subject to oversight by state insurance departments. Therefore, modifications may be necessary to ensure that all entities intended to be subject to the Act, but not meeting the state's legal definition of "insurer," are appropriately referenced.

Section 2. Definitions.

- A. "Commissioner." The Insurance Commissioner of the State.
- B. "Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure (CGAD)." A Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure shall mean a confidential report filed by the insurer or insurance group made in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

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- C. "Insurance group." For the purpose of this Act, the term "insurance group" shall mean those insurers and affiliates included within an insurance holding company system as defined in [insert state law equivalent to the model Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act.]
- D. "Insurer." The term "insurer" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section [insert applicable section] of this Chapter, except that it shall not include agencies, authorities or instrumentalities of the United States, its possessions and territories, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or a state or political subdivision of a state.
- E. "ORSA Summary Report." The term "ORSA Summary Report" shall mean the report filed in accordance with [insert applicable statutory reference to the Risk Management and Own Risk and Solvency Assessment Model Act.]

Section 3. Disclosure Requirement.

- A. An insurer, or the insurance group of which the insurer is a member, shall, no later than June 1 of each calendar year, submit to the Commissioner a Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure (CGAD) that contains the information described in Section 5B below. Notwithstanding any request from the Commissioner made pursuant to Subsection C, if the insurer is a member of an insurance group, the insurer shall submit the report required by this Section to the Commissioner of the lead state for the insurance group, in accordance with the laws of the lead state, as determined by the procedures outlined in the most recent Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the NAIC.
- B. The CGAD must include a signature of the insurer or insurance group's chief executive officer or corporate secretary attesting to the best of that individual's belief and knowledge that the insurer has implemented the corporate governance practices and that a copy of the disclosure has been provided to the insurer's board of directors or the appropriate committee thereof.
- C. An insurer not required to submit a CGAD under this section shall do so upon the Commissioner's request.
- D. For purposes of completing the CGAD, the insurer or insurance group may provide information regarding corporate governance at the ultimate controlling parent level, an intermediate holding company level and/or the individual legal entity level, depending upon how the insurer or insurance group has structured its system of corporate governance. The insurer or insurance group is encouraged to make the CGAD disclosures at the level at which the insurer's or insurance group's risk appetite is determined, or at which the earnings, capital, liquidity, operations, and reputation of the insurer are overseen collectively and at which the supervision of those factors are coordinated and exercised, or the level at which legal liability for failure of general corporate governance duties would be placed. If the insurer or insurance group determines the level of reporting based on these criteria, it shall indicate which of the three criteria was used to determine the level of reporting and explain any subsequent changes in level of reporting.
- E. The review of the CGAD and any additional requests for information shall be made through the lead state as determined by the procedures within the most recent Financial Analysis Handbook referenced in Paragraph A of this section.

- F. Insurers providing information substantially similar to the information required by this Act in other documents provided to the Commissioner, including proxy statements filed in conjunction with Form B requirements, or other state or federal filings provided to this Department shall not be required to duplicate that information in the CGAD, but shall only be required to cross reference the document in which the information is included.

Section 4. Rules and Regulations

The Commissioner may, upon notice and opportunity for all interested persons to be heard, issue such rules, regulations and orders as shall be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. Contents of Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure.

- A. The insurer or insurance group shall have discretion over the responses to the CGAD inquiries, provided the CGAD shall contain the material information necessary to permit the Commissioner to gain an understanding of the insurer's or group's corporate governance structure, policies, and practices. The Commissioner may request additional information that he or she deems material and necessary to provide the Commissioner with a clear understanding of the corporate governance policies, the reporting or information system or controls implementing those policies.
- B. Notwithstanding Subsection A of this section, the CGAD shall be prepared consistent with the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Model Regulation [INSERT CITATION]. Documentation and supporting information shall be maintained and made available upon examination or upon request of the Commissioner.

Section 6. Confidentiality.

- A. Documents, materials or other information including the CGAD, in the possession or control of the Department of Insurance that are obtained by, created by or disclosed to the Commissioner or any other person under this Act, are recognized by this state as being proprietary and to contain trade secrets. All such documents, materials or other information shall be confidential by law and privileged, shall not be subject to [insert open records, freedom of information, sunshine or other appropriate phrase], shall not be subject to subpoena, and shall not be subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in any private civil action. However, the Commissioner is authorized to use the documents, materials or other information in the furtherance of any regulatory or legal action brought as a part of the Commissioner's official duties. The Commissioner shall not otherwise make the documents, materials or other information public without the prior written consent of the insurer. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require written consent of the insurer before the Commissioner may share or receive confidential documents, materials or other CGAD-related information pursuant to Subsection C below to assist in the performance of the Commissioner's regular duties.

Drafting Note: States should consider whether to specifically invoke their examination statute as applicable additional confidentiality protection for documents submitted pursuant to this Model Act.

- B. Neither the Commissioner nor any person who received documents, materials or other CGAD-related information, through examination or otherwise, while acting under the authority of the Commissioner, or with whom such documents, materials or other information are shared pursuant to this Act shall be permitted or required to testify in any private civil action concerning any confidential documents, materials, or information subject to Subsection A.

- C. In order to assist in the performance of the Commissioner's regulatory duties, the Commissioner:
1. May, upon request, share documents, materials or other CGAD-related information including the confidential and privileged documents, materials or information subject to Subsection A, including proprietary and trade secret documents and materials with other state, federal and international financial regulatory agencies, including members of any supervisory college as defined in the [insert cross-reference to appropriate section of Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act, as amended], with the NAIC, and with third party consultants pursuant to Section 7, provided that the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the CGAD-related documents, material or other information and has verified in writing the legal authority to maintain confidentiality; and
 2. May receive documents, materials or other CGAD-related information, including otherwise confidential and privileged documents, materials or information, including proprietary and trade-secret information or documents, from regulatory officials of other state, federal and international financial regulatory agencies, including members of any supervisory college as defined in the [insert cross-reference to appropriate section of Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act, as amended], and from the NAIC, and shall maintain as confidential or privileged any documents, materials or information received with notice or the understanding that it is confidential or privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction that is the source of the document, material or information.
- D. The sharing of information and documents by the Commissioner pursuant to this Act shall not constitute a delegation of regulatory authority or rulemaking, and the Commissioner is solely responsible for the administration, execution and enforcement of the provisions of this Act.
- E. No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of confidentiality in the documents, proprietary and trade-secret materials or other CGAD-related information shall occur as a result of disclosure of such CGAD-related information or documents to the Commissioner under this section or as a result of sharing as authorized in this Act.

Section 7. NAIC and Third-party Consultants

- A. The Commissioner may retain, at the insurer's expense, third-party consultants, including attorneys, actuaries, accountants and other experts not otherwise a part of the Commissioner's staff as may be reasonably necessary to assist the Commissioner in reviewing the CGAD and related information or the insurer's compliance with this Act.
- B. Any persons retained under Subsection A shall be under the direction and control of the Commissioner and shall act in a purely advisory capacity.
- C. The NAIC and third-party consultants shall be subject to the same confidentiality standards and requirements as the Commissioner.
- D. As part of the retention process, a third-party consultant shall verify to the Commissioner, with notice to the insurer, that it is free of a conflict of interest and that it has internal procedures in place to monitor compliance with a conflict and to comply with the confidentiality standards and requirements of this Act.

- E. A written agreement with the NAIC and/or a third-party consultant governing sharing and use of information provided pursuant to this Act shall contain the following provisions and expressly require the written consent of the insurer prior to making public information provided under this Act:
1. Specific procedures and protocols for maintaining the confidentiality and security of CGAD-related information shared with the NAIC or a third-party consultant pursuant to this Act.
 2. Procedures and protocols for sharing by the NAIC only with other state regulators from states in which the insurance group has domiciled insurers. The agreement shall provide that the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the CGAD-related documents, materials or other information and has verified in writing the legal authority to maintain confidentiality.
 3. A provision specifying that ownership of the CGAD-related information shared with the NAIC or a third-party consultant remains with the Department of Insurance and the NAIC's or third-party consultant's use of the information is subject to the direction of the Commissioner;
 4. A provision that prohibits the NAIC or a third-party consultant from storing the information shared pursuant to this Act in a permanent database after the underlying analysis is completed;
 5. A provision requiring the NAIC or third-party consultant to provide prompt notice to the Commissioner and to the insurer or insurance group regarding any subpoena, request for disclosure, or request for production of the insurer's CGAD-related information; and
 6. A requirement that the NAIC or a third-party consultant to consent to intervention by an insurer in any judicial or administrative action in which the NAIC or a third-party consultant may be required to disclose confidential information about the insurer shared with the NAIC or a third-party consultant pursuant to this Act.

Section 8. Sanctions.

Any insurer failing, without just cause, to timely file the CGAD as required in this Act shall be required, after notice and hearing, to pay a penalty of \$[insert amount] for each day's delay, to be recovered by the Commissioner and the penalty so recovered shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of this state. The maximum penalty under this section is \$[insert amount]. The Commissioner may reduce the penalty if the insurer demonstrates to the Commissioner that the imposition of the penalty would constitute a financial hardship to the insurer.

Section 9. Severability Clause.

If any provision of this Act other than Section 6, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, such determination shall not affect the provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this Act, with the exception of Section 6, are severable.

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Section 10. Effective Date.

The requirements of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2016. The first filing of the CGAD shall be in 2016.

Chronological Summary of Action (all references are to the Proceedings of the NAIC).

Adopted by Executive/Plenary Committee at 2014 Fall National Meeting

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These charts are intended to provide the readers with additional information to more easily access state statutes, regulations, bulletins or administrative rulings which are related to the NAIC model. Such guidance provides the reader with a starting point from which they may review how each state has addressed the model and the topic being covered. The NAIC Legal Division has reviewed each state's activity in this area and has made an interpretation of adoption or related state activity based on the definitions listed below. The NAIC's interpretation may or may not be shared by the individual states or by interested readers.

This state page does not constitute a formal legal opinion by the NAIC staff on the provisions of state law and should not be relied upon as such. Nor does this state page reflect a determination as to whether a state meets any applicable accreditation standards. Every effort has been made to provide correct and accurate summaries to assist the reader in targeting useful information. For further details, the laws cited should be consulted. The NAIC attempts to provide current information; however, due to the timing of our publication production, the information provided may not reflect the most up to date status. Therefore, readers should consult state law for additional adoptions and subsequent bill status.

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KEY:

MODEL ADOPTION: States that have citations identified in this column adopted the most recent version of the NAIC model in a substantially similar manner. This requires states to adopt the model in its entirety but does allow for variations in style and format. States that have adopted portions of the current NAIC model will be included in this column with an explanatory note.

RELATED STATE ACTIVITY: States that have citations identified in this column have not adopted the most recent version of the NAIC model in a substantially similar manner. Examples of Related State Activity include but are not limited to: An older version of the NAIC model, legislation or regulation derived from other sources such as Bulletins and Administrative Rulings.

NO CURRENT ACTIVITY: No state activity on the topic as of the date of the most recent update. This includes states that have repealed legislation as well as states that have never adopted legislation.

NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
Alabama	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Alaska	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
American Samoa	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Arizona	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Arkansas	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
California	CAL. INS. CODE §§ 936.1 TO 936.9 (2015).	
Colorado	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Connecticut	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Delaware	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
District of Columbia	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Florida	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Georgia	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Guam	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	

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NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
Hawaii	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Idaho	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Illinois	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Indiana	IND. CODE ANN. § 27-1-4.1 (2015).	
Iowa	IOWA CODE ANN. § 521h (2015).	
Kansas	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Kentucky	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Louisiana	LA. REV. STAT. §§ 22:691.31 to 22:691.38 (2015).	
Maine	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Maryland	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Massachusetts	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Michigan	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Minnesota	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Mississippi	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Missouri	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Montana	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Nebraska	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Nevada	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
New Hampshire	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
New Jersey	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
New Mexico	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	

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NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
New York	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
North Carolina	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
North Dakota	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Northern Marianas	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Ohio	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Oklahoma	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Oregon	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Pennsylvania	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Puerto Rico	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Rhode Island	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
South Carolina	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
South Dakota	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Tennessee	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Texas	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Utah	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Vermont	Vt. STAT. ANN. tit. 8 § 3316 (2015).	
Virgin Islands	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Virginia	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Washington	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
West Virginia	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	

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NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
Wisconsin	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Wyoming	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	