

Week Six – April 8-12, 2019

Last week, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly supported [HB 7065](#) by [Chairman Rommel \(R-Naples\)](#) with a [96-20 vote](#) on Thursday. The bill passed by a larger margin than similar AOB legislation from the 2018 Session with at least a net of three new votes from Democrats who did not vote on the bill or switched from a nay to a yea. The amendment referenced in last week's update specific to Citizens was adopted with language removing the auto glass assignment component from the bill.

The Senate will hear [SB 122](#) by [Chairman Broxson](#) on Wednesday in the [Senate Rules Committee](#).

The following is a brief synopsis of Citizens' high priority bills which had action last week.

On Monday, the [Senate Banking and Insurance Committee](#) heard [SB 714](#) by [Senator Brandes \(R-St. Petersburg\)](#) which is the [Department of Financial Services \(DFS\)](#) omnibus bill. The bill was amended with the following changes:

- Provides that a foreign or alien insurer does not need to meet the three-year operation requirement before being allowed to operate in this state if the OIR is satisfied the insurer possesses sufficient capital and surplus to support its plan of operation.
- Reduces from three to one the number of declinations needed to export to a surplus lines insurer a personal lines residential policy with a dwelling replacement cost of \$700,000 to below \$1 million to a surplus lines insurer.
- Allows personal lines residential insurance with a dwelling replacement of \$700,000 or greater certify policy forms and apply rates in the same ways allowed for commercial insurance. Caps the use of such rates and forms to no more than five percent of a company's book of business including the use of excess rates in s. 627.171, F.S.

Note: [SB 714](#) contains the change in the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF) Loss Adjustment Expense (LAE) factor from five percent to 10 percent beginning with the 2019 hurricane season.

The bill passed unanimously. The reference to the Rules Committee was removed and the bill was re-referred to the [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) as its final committee of reference. The bill would take effect on July 1, 2019.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives heard [HB 7065](#) on second reading with a vote and final passage on Thursday. The bill will be sent over to the Senate. If [SB 122](#) by [Chairman Broxson \(R-Pensacola\)](#) is amended in the [Senate Rules Committee](#) on

Wednesday to conform to [HB 7065](#), the bill would be in a posture to have [HB 7065](#) substituted on the Senate Floor and a final vote taken by the Senate. The bill would then head to Governor DeSantis for his approval. Should language relative to auto glass assignments reach an agreement with the bill sponsors, we could see an additional amendment.

To watch final passage of [HB 7065](#) on Thursday, go to [The Florida Channel](#) and cue to 1:16:14 to view. You can also access the [Florida Channel's Capitol Update](#) for coverage on the passage of the bill.

Also on Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed [HB 301](#) by [Representative Santiago \(R-Deltona\)](#) which is the companion to [SB 714](#) referenced above (DFS Omnibus bill) passed unanimously and now heads to the Senate.

On Deck – Week Seven

The [Senate Rules Committee](#) will be meeting on Wednesday, April 17 at 2:00 p.m. [SB 122](#) relating to AOB by [Chairman Broxson](#) and [SB 380](#) relating to flood insurance disclosure on homeowners policies by [Senator Brandes](#) will be heard.

The Senate will be in Session on Wednesday, April 17 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The House of Representatives will be in Session on Wednesday, April 17 beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The [House Commerce Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, April 18 at 8:00 a.m. The agenda has not yet been released.

The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) will meet on Thursday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m. The agenda has not yet been released.

The House of Representatives will be in Session on Thursday, April 18 beginning at 1:00 pm.

News of Note – Week Six

[Assignment of Benefits Reform Moves Forward as Florida House Passes Measure](#)

Insurance Journal

[AOB insurance changes clear House](#)

News Service of Florida

[Rommel removes auto glass from assignment-of-benefits bill](#)

Politico

[House drops windshield repairs from ‘AOB’ measure](#)

News Service of Florida

[House plan would shift AOB savings to policyholders](#)

Florida Politics (blog)

[Six months later, ‘Forgotten Coast’ snap-shots paint disjointed Michael recovery picture](#)

Florida Watchdog

[Governor delivers \\$41M in Irma relief to Naples](#)

Florida Politics

[Florida insurance rules are punishing consumers with higher premiums | Commentary](#)

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