

By: Representative Chism

To: Insurance

HOUSE BILL NO. 361

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 83-17-253, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS OF WHICH EDUCATIONAL  
3 PROGRAMS MUST CONSIST IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED TOWARDS  
4 SATISFACTION OF PRELICENSING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS  
5 FOR INSURANCE AGENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 83-17-253, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 83-17-253. (1) To qualify for credit towards satisfaction  
10 of the requirements of this section, an educational program must  
11 be a formal program of learning which contributes directly to the  
12 professional competence of the licensee and such program must meet  
13 the standards outlined herein for continuing educational programs.  
14 The subject of each course must be approved for the lines of  
15 insurance for which the licensee is granted educational credit.

16 (2) Formal programs requiring attendance or self-study may  
17 be considered for credit if:

18 (a) A detailed outline is prepared and presented to the  
19 Department of Insurance for approval;

20 (b) The program is at least one (1) credit hour in  
21 length, which each fifty-minute period being equal to one (1)  
22 credit hour;

23 (c) The program is conducted by a qualified instructor;

24 (d) A record of registration and attendance is  
25 maintained for a period of five (5) years and is available to the  
26 Department of Insurance for review; and

27 (e) If program is self-study, the agent must pass an  
28 exam.

29           (3) Continuing educational credit shall be allowed for  
30 service as an instructor of certified programs at any program for  
31 which participants are eligible to receive continuing educational  
32 credit. Credit for such service shall be awarded on the first  
33 presentation only unless a program has been substantially revised.

34           (4) The course must be directly related to life, health and  
35 accident insurance or property and casualty insurance. A business  
36 course of general nature, insurance marketing or sales course  
37 shall not be approved.

38           (5) The courses or programs of instruction successfully  
39 completed which shall meet the standards of the Commissioner of  
40 Insurance for continuing educational requirements for the year in  
41 which the course is taken are:

42                 (a) Any part of the Life Underwriter Training Counsel  
43 Life Course Curriculum or Health Course;

44                 (b) Any part of the American College "CLU-ChFC,"  
45 "RHU-REBC" diploma or certificate curriculum;

46                 (c) Any part of the Insurance Institute of America's  
47 programs;

48                 (d) Any course as approved by the Department of  
49 Insurance for property and casualty insurance agents; and

50                 (e) Any designated insurance course taught by an  
51 accredited college or university per credit hour granted.

52           (6) The commissioner specifically reserves the right to  
53 approve or disapprove credit for continuing education claimed  
54 under this section.

55           (7) The Commissioner of Insurance may require any original  
56 publisher or provider to submit all material to be used in his or  
57 her program to the Department of Insurance or his designee for  
58 review.

59           (8) All providers shall maintain a record of persons  
60 attending each course for not less than five (5) years and shall  
61 provide certificates of completion with hours earned to students

62 upon their successful completion of each course. The certificate  
63 shall bear the course identification number as assigned by the  
64 Commissioner of Insurance or his designee.

65 (9) The Commissioner of Insurance may, in his discretion,  
66 designate an independent evaluation educational service to  
67 evaluate and administer education programs, subject to his  
68 direction and approval. The evaluation fee charged by such  
69 educational service shall be paid by the applicant to the service.

70 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
71 and after July 1, 2007.