

CHAPTER 961

S.B. No. 444

AN ACT

relating to extension of time for completion of and exception from continuing education requirements for certain insurance agents.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Article 9.58, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section E to read as follows:

*E. On written request of the licensee, the board may extend the time for the licensee to comply with the requirements of this article or may exempt the licensee from some or all of the requirements for a licensing period if the board finds that the licensee is unable to comply with the requirements because of illness, medical disability, or another extenuating*

*circumstance beyond the control of the licensee. The criteria for such exemptions and extensions shall be established by rule.*

SECTION 2. Section 3A, Chapter 213, Acts of the 54th Legislature, 1955 (Article 21.07-1, Vernon's Texas Insurance Code), is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

*(c) On written request of the agent, the board may extend the time for the agent to comply with the continuing education requirements of this section or may exempt the agent from some or all of the requirements for a licensing period if the board finds that the agent is unable to comply with the requirements because of illness, medical disability, or another extenuating circumstance beyond the control of the agent. The criteria for such exemptions and extensions shall be established by rule.*

SECTION 3. Section 7A, Chapter 407, Acts of the 63rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1973 (Article 21.07-4, Vernon's Texas Insurance Code), is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

*(c) On written request of the adjuster, the board may extend the time for the adjuster to comply with the continuing education requirements of this section or may exempt the adjuster from some or all of the requirements for a licensing period if the board finds that the adjuster is unable to comply with the requirements because of illness, medical disability, or another extenuating circumstance beyond the control of the adjuster. The criteria for such exemptions and extensions shall be established by rule.*

SECTION 4. Section 5b, Article 21.14, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5b. CONTINUING EDUCATION. (a) The State Board of Insurance shall adopt a procedure for certifying and shall certify continuing education programs for agents. Participation in the programs is mandatory for all agents licensed under this article. The State Board of Insurance shall exempt agents who have been licensed for ~~[15 years or more beginning September 1, 1987; 16 years or more beginning September 1, 1988; 17 years or more beginning September 1, 1989; 18 years or more beginning September 1, 1990; 19 years or more beginning September 1, 1991; and]~~ 20 years or more on or after September 1, 1992, and shall have the rulemaking authority to provide for other reasonable exemptions. No agent shall be required to complete more than 15 hours of continuing education per year. An agent licensed under both Articles 21.07-1 and 21.14 of this code and any subsequent amendments may elect to satisfy the continuing education requirements of either article and shall not be required to complete a total of more than 15 hours of continuing education per year.

*(b) On written request of the agent, the State Board of Insurance may extend the time for the agent to comply with the continuing education requirements of this section or may exempt the agent from some or all of the requirements for a licensing period if the board finds that the agent is unable to comply with the requirements because of illness, medical disability, or another extenuating circumstance beyond the control of the agent. The criteria for such exemptions and extensions shall be established by rule.*

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993, and applies only to continuing education requirements for a licensing period ending on or after January 1, 1994. Continuing education requirements for a licensing period ending before January 1, 1994, are governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 6. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on April 29, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House on May 26, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 19, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.