- 1 SB52
- 2 194213-1
- 3 By Senator Shelnutt
- 4 RFD: Banking and Insurance
- 5 First Read: 05-MAR-19

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194213-1:n:05/01/2018:FC/th LSA2018-1674

8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, an insurer domiciled in 9 this state provides information to the Commissioner 10 of Insurance concerning the corporate governance 11 practices of the insurer at least once every five 12 years during a full-scope examination of the 13 insurer by the commissioner.

This bill would require an insurer domiciled 14 15 in this state to provide information to the 16 Commissioner of Insurance on an annual basis 17 regarding the corporate governance practices of the 18 insurer by adopting a law substantially similar to 19 the Corporate Governance Model Act developed by the 20 National Association of Insurance Commissioners. 21 The bill would provide that the information would 22 be confidential and privileged.

23 Under existing law, the Insurance 24 Commissioner regulates insurance holding company 25 systems that are insurers in this state. Under the 26 law, the commissioner is authorized to act as a 27 group-wide supervisor for an internationally active

insurance group or to acknowledge another 1 2 regulatory person for that purpose. This bill would provide a definition of 3 4 internationally active insurance group and specify that documents, materials, and information filed 5 with the commissioner relative to the group-wide 6 7 supervision of an internationally active insurance group are confidential and privileged. 8 9 10 A BILL 11 TO BE ENTITLED 12 AN ACT 13 14 Relating to insurance; to add Chapter 29B to Title 27, Code of Alabama 1975, to require insurers domiciled in 15 this state to provide information to the Commissioner of 16 17 Insurance on an annual basis regarding the corporate governance practices of the insurer; to provide that the 18 19 information would be confidential and privileged under certain conditions; and to amend Sections 27-29-1 and 27-29-7, Code of 20 21 Alabama 1975, relating to insurance holding company systems, 22 to provide a definition of internationally active insurance 23 groups and to specify that documents, materials, and other 24 information filed with the Commissioner of Insurance relative 25 to the group-wide supervision of an internationally active 26 insurance group are confidential and privileged. 27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Chapter 29B is added to Title 27, Code of
 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

3 Chapter 29B. Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure4 Act.

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§27-29B-1. Purpose and Scope.

6 (a) The purpose of this chapter is to do all of the 7 following:

8 (1) Provide the Commissioner of Insurance a summary 9 of an insurer or insurance group's corporate governance 10 structure, policies, and practices to permit the commissioner 11 to gain and maintain an understanding of the insurer's 12 corporate governance framework.

13 (2) Outline the requirements for completing a
 14 corporate governance annual disclosure with the 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 chapter shall be construed to prescribe or impose corporate governance standards and internal procedures beyond the procedures that are required under applicable state corporate law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit

the authority of the commissioner, or the rights or 1 2 obligations of third parties, under Chapter 2 of this title. (c) The requirements of this chapter shall apply to 3 4 all insurers domiciled in this state. §27-29B-2. Definitions. 5 For purposes of this chapter, the following 6 7 definitions apply: (1) COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner of Insurance of 8 9 the Department of Insurance. 10 (2) CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ANNUAL DISCLOSURE or CGAD. A confidential report filed by an insurer or insurance group 11 12 in accordance with the requirements of this chapter. (3) INSURANCE GROUP. Insurers and affiliates 13 14 included within an insurance holding company system as defined in Chapter 29 of this title. 15 (4) INSURER. As defined in Section 27-1-2, except 16 17 the term shall not include agencies, authorities, or instrumentalities of the United States, its possessions and 18 territories, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of 19 Columbia, or a state or political subdivision of a state. 20 21 (5) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS 22 or NAIC. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners and its affiliates and subsidiaries. 23 24 §27-29B-3. Disclosure Requirement. 25 (a) Not later than June 1 of each calendar year, an 26 insurer or the insurance group of which the insurer is a 27 member, shall submit to the commissioner a Corporate

1 Governance Annual Disclosure (CGAD) that contains the 2 information described in Section 27-29B-5. Notwithstanding any request from the commissioner made pursuant to subsection (c), 3 4 if the insurer is a member of an insurance group the insurer shall submit the report required by this section to the 5 commissioner of the lead state for the insurance group in 6 7 accordance with the laws of the lead state as determined by the procedures outlined in the most recent Financial Analysis 8 9 Handbook adopted by the NAIC.

10 (b) The CGAD shall include a signature of the 11 insurer or insurance group's chief executive officer or 12 corporate secretary attesting to the best of that individual's 13 belief and knowledge that the insurer has implemented the 14 corporate governance practices and that a copy of the 15 disclosure has been provided to the board of directors of the 16 insurer or the appropriate committee thereof.

(c) An insurer that is not required to submit a CGAD under this section shall submit a CGAD at the request of the commissioner.

20 (d) For purposes of completing the CGAD, the insurer 21 or insurance group may provide information regarding corporate 22 governance at the ultimate controlling parent level, an 23 intermediate holding company level, or the individual legal 24 entity level, based on the structure of the system of 25 corporate governance of the insurer or insurance group. The 26 insurer or insurance group is encouraged to make the CGAD disclosures at the level at which the insurer's or insurance 27

1 group's risk appetite is determined; or at the level at which 2 the earnings, capital, liquidity, operations, and reputation of the insurer are overseen collectively and at which the 3 4 supervision of those factors are coordinated and exercised; or at the level at which legal liability for failure of general 5 corporate governance duties would be placed. If the insurer or 6 7 insurance group determines the level of reporting based on these criteria, it shall indicate which of the three criteria 8 was used to determine the level of reporting and explain any 9 subsequent changes in level of reporting. 10

(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 as provided for in subsection (a).

(f) Insurers providing information substantially 15 similar to the information required by this chapter in other 16 17 documents provided to the commissioner, including proxy statements filed in conjunction with Form B requirements, or 18 other state or federal filings provided to the Department of 19 20 Insurance shall not be required to duplicate that information 21 in the CGAD, but shall only be required to cross reference the 22 document in which the information is included.

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§27-29B-4. Rules.

The commissioner, upon notice and opportunity for all interested persons to be heard, may issue rules and orders as necessary to carry out this chapter. \$27-29B-5. Contents of Corporate Governance Annual
 Disclosure.

(a) The insurer or insurance group shall have 3 4 discretion over the responses to the CGAD inquiries, provided the CGAD shall contain the material information necessary to 5 permit the commissioner to gain an understanding of the 6 7 insurer's or insurance group's corporate governance structure, policies, and practices. The commissioner may request 8 additional information that the commissioner deems material 9 10 and necessary to provide the commissioner with a clear understanding of the corporate governance policies or the 11 12 reporting or information system or controls implementing those 13 policies.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the CGAD shall be prepared consistent with rules adopted by the commissioner which shall be substantially similar to the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Model Regulation developed by the NAIC. Documentation and supporting information shall be maintained and made available upon examination or upon request of the commissioner.

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§27-29B-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
chapter, are recognized by this state as being proprietary and
to contain trade secrets. All of the documents, materials, or

1 other information shall be confidential by law and privileged, 2 shall not be subject to any open records, freedom of information, sunshine, or other public record disclosure laws, 3 4 shall not be subject to subpoena, and shall not be subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in any private civil 5 action. However, the commissioner may use the documents, 6 7 materials, or other information in the furtherance of any regulatory or legal action brought as a part of the official 8 duties of the commissioner. The commissioner shall not 9 10 otherwise make the documents, materials, or other information public without the prior written consent of the insurer. 11 12 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require written 13 consent of the insurer before the commissioner may share or 14 receive confidential documents, materials, or other 15 CGAD-related information pursuant to subsection (c) to assist in the performance of the duties of the commissioner. 16

17 (b) Neither the commissioner nor any person who received documents, materials, or other CGAD-related 18 information, through examination or otherwise, while acting 19 20 under the authority of the commissioner, or with whom the 21 documents, materials, or other information are shared pursuant 22 to this chapter, shall be permitted or required to testify in 23 any private civil action concerning any confidential 24 documents, materials, or information subject to subsection 25 (a).

1 (c) In order to assist in the performance of the 2 regulatory duties of the commissioner, the commissioner may do 3 all of the following:

4 (1) Upon request, may share documents, materials, or other CGAD-related information, including the confidential and 5 6 privileged documents, materials, or information subject to 7 subsection (a), including proprietary and trade secret documents and materials, with other state, federal, and 8 9 international financial regulatory agencies, including members of any supervisory college as defined in Section 27-29-6.1, 10 with the NAIC, and with third party consultants pursuant to 11 Section 27-29B-7, provided the recipient agrees in writing to 12 maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the 13 14 CGAD-related documents, material, or other information and has 15 verified in writing the legal authority to maintain 16 confidentiality.

17 (2) May receive documents, materials, or other CGAD-related information, including otherwise confidential and 18 privileged documents, materials, or information, including 19 20 proprietary and trade secret information or documents, from 21 regulatory officials of other state, federal, and 22 international financial regulatory agencies, including members 23 of any supervisory college as defined in Section 27-29-6.1, 24 and from the NAIC, and shall maintain as confidential or 25 privileged any documents, materials, or information received with notice or the understanding that it is confidential or 26

privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction that is the
 source of the document, material, or information.

3 (d) The sharing of information and documents by the 4 commissioner pursuant to this chapter shall not constitute a 5 delegation of regulatory authority or rulemaking, and the 6 commissioner shall be solely responsible for the 7 administration, execution, and enforcement of this chapter.

8 (e) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim 9 of confidentiality in the documents, proprietary and trade 10 secret materials, or other CGAD-related information shall 11 occur as a result of disclosure of CGAD-related information or 12 documents to the commissioner under this section or as a 13 result of sharing authorized in this chapter.

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§27-29B-7. NAIC and Third-party Consultants.

(a) The commissioner, at the insurer's expense, may
retain third-party consultants, including attorneys,
actuaries, accountants, and other experts not otherwise a part
of the staff of the commissioner as may be reasonably
necessary to assist the commissioner in reviewing the CGAD and
related information or the insurer's compliance with this
chapter.

(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 chapter.

(e) A written agreement with the NAIC or a
third-party consultant governing sharing and use of
information provided pursuant to this chapter shall contain
all of the following provisions and expressly require the
written consent of the insurer prior to making public
information provided under this chapter:

(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 chapter.

(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

use of the information by NAIC or third-party consultant is
 subject to the direction of the commissioner.

3 (4) A provision that prohibits the NAIC or a
4 third-party consultant from storing the information shared
5 pursuant to this chapter in a permanent database after the
6 underlying analysis is completed.

7 (5) A provision requiring the NAIC or third-party
8 consultant to provide prompt notice to the commissioner and to
9 the insurer or insurance group regarding any subpoena, request
10 for disclosure, or request for production of the insurer's
11 CGAD-related information.

12 (6) A requirement that the NAIC or a third-party 13 consultant consent to intervention by an insurer in any 14 judicial or administrative action in which the NAIC or a 15 third-party consultant may be required to disclose 16 confidential information about the insurer shared with the 17 NAIC or a third-party consultant pursuant to this chapter. 18 \$27-29B-8. Sanctions.

Any insurer failing, without just cause, to timely 19 20 file the CGAD as required in this chapter shall be required, 21 after notice and hearing, to pay a penalty of one thousand 22 dollars (\$1,000) for each day's delay, to be recovered by the 23 commissioner. Any penalty recovered shall be deposited in the 24 State General Fund. The maximum penalty under this section is one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). The commissioner may 25 26 reduce the penalty if the insurer demonstrates to the

1 2 commissioner that the imposition of the penalty would constitute a financial hardship to the insurer.

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§27-29B-9. Severability Clause.

If any provision of this chapter, except Section 27-29B-6, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, that determination shall not affect the provisions or applications of this chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to that end the provisions of this chapter, with the exception of Section 27-29B-6, are severable.

11 Section 2. Sections 27-29-1 and 27-29-7, Code of 12 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§27-29-1.

14 "For purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise 15 stated, the following terms shall have the meanings 16 respectively ascribed to them by this section:

17 "(1) AFFILIATE. The term shall include an affiliate 18 of, or person affiliated with, a specific person, and shall 19 mean a person that directly, or indirectly through one or more 20 intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under 21 common control with, the person specified.

"(2) COMMISSIONER. The Commissioner of Insurance,
his or her deputies, or the Insurance Department as
appropriate.

"(3) CONTROL. The term shall include controlling,
controlled by, or under common control with and shall mean the
possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or

1 cause the direction of the management and policies of a 2 person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or 3 4 nonmanagement services, or otherwise, unless the power is the result of an official position with or corporate office held 5 6 by the person. Control shall be presumed to exist if any 7 person, directly or indirectly owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing five percent or 8 more of the voting securities of any other person. This 9 10 presumption may be rebutted by a showing made in the manner provided by subsection (k) of Section 27-29-4 that control 11 12 does not exist in fact. The commissioner may determine, after 13 furnishing all persons in interest notice and opportunity to 14 be heard and making a specific finding of fact to support such 15 determination, that control exists in fact, notwithstanding the absence of a presumption to that effect. 16

17 "(4) ENTERPRISE RISK. Any activity, circumstance, event, or series of events involving one or more affiliates of 18 an insurer that, if not remedied promptly, is likely to have a 19 material adverse effect upon the financial condition or 20 21 liquidity of the insurer or its insurance holding company 22 system as a whole, including, but not limited to, anything 23 that would cause the insurer's risk-based capital to fall into 24 company action level as set forth in Section 27-2B-4 or would cause the insurer to be in hazardous financial condition. 25

"(5) GROUP-WIDE SUPERVISOR. The regulatory official
 authorized to engage in conducting and coordinating group-wide

supervision activities who is determined or acknowledged by
 the commissioner under this chapter to have sufficient
 significant contacts with the internationally active insurance
 group.

5 "(6) INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANY SYSTEM. A system 6 which consists of two or more affiliated persons, one or more 7 of which is an insurer.

"(7) INSURER. An insurance company as set forth in 8 Section 27-1-2, including, without limitation, any fraternal 9 10 benefit society, health care service plan, and health maintenance organization, except that it shall not include 11 12 agencies, authorities, or instrumentalities of the United 13 States, its possessions and territories, the Commonwealth of 14 Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or a state or political 15 subdivision of a state.

16 "<u>(8) INTERNATIONALLY ACTIVE INSURANCE GROUP. An</u> 17 insurance holding company system that incudes an insurer 18 registered under Section 27-29-4 that meets all of the 19 following criteria:

20 "<u>a. Premiums are written in at least three</u>
21 countries.

"b. The percentage of gross premiums written outside
 the United States is at least 10 percent of the insurance
 holding company system's total gross written premiums.
 "c. Based on a three-year rolling average, the total
 assets of the insurance holding company system are at least

27 fifty billion dollars (\$50,000,000,000) or the total gross

1 written premiums of the insurance holding company system are 2 at least ten billion dollars (\$10,000,000,000).

3 "(8)(9) PERSON. An individual, a corporation, a
4 limited liability company, a partnership, an association, a
5 joint-stock company, a trust, an unincorporated organization,
6 or any similar entity or any combination of the foregoing
7 acting in concert, but shall not include any joint venture
8 partnership exclusively engaged in owning, managing, leasing,
9 or developing real or tangible personal property.

10 "(9)(10) SECURITYHOLDER. One who owns any security 11 of such person, including common stock, preferred stock, debt 12 obligations, and other security convertible into, or 13 evidencing, the right to acquire any of the foregoing.

14 "(10)(11) SUBSIDIARY. An affiliate controlled by 15 such person, directly or indirectly, through one or more 16 intermediaries.

17 "(11)(12) VOTING SECURITY. The term shall include 18 any security convertible into, or evidencing, a right to 19 acquire a voting security.

20 "§27-29-7.

"(a) All documents, materials, or other information, and copies thereof, in the possession or control of the Department of Insurance that are obtained by or disclosed to the commissioner or any other person in the course of an examination or investigation made pursuant to Section 27-29-6 and all information reported pursuant to paragraphs 1. and m. of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of Section 27-29-3,

Section 27-29-4, and Section 27-29-5, and Section 27-29-6.2 1 2 shall be confidential by law and privileged, shall not be subject to any open records, freedom of information, sunshine 3 4 or other public record disclosure laws, and shall not be subject to subpoena. The commissioner may use the documents, 5 6 materials, and other information in the furtherance of any 7 regulatory or legal action in the course of the commissioner's official duties. The documents, materials, and other 8 information shall not be made public by the commissioner or 9 10 any other person without the prior written consent of the insurer to which it pertains unless the commissioner 11 12 determines that the interests of policyholders, shareholders, 13 or the public will be served by the publication thereof, in 14 which event the commissioner may publish all, or any part thereof, in such manner as the commissioner may deem 15 appropriate. Prior to making this determination, the 16 17 commissioner shall give the insurer and its affiliates who would be affected thereby no less than 10 days' written notice 18 of the opportunity to request a hearing on the matter. 19

"(b) Neither the commissioner nor any person who 20 21 received documents, materials, or other information while 22 acting under the authority of the commissioner or with whom 23 such documents, materials, or other information are shared 24 pursuant to this chapter shall be permitted or required to 25 testify in any private civil action concerning any 26 confidential documents, materials, or information subject to 27 subsection (a).

1 "(c) In order to assist in the performance of the 2 commissioner's duties, the commissioner:

"(1) May share documents, materials, or other 3 4 information, including the confidential and privileged documents, materials, or information subject to subsection 5 6 (a), with other state, federal, and international regulatory 7 agencies, with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and its affiliates and subsidiaries, and with 8 state, federal, and international law enforcement authorities, 9 including members of any supervisory college described in 10 Section 27-29-6.1, provided that the recipient agrees in 11 12 writing to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status 13 of the document, material, or other information, and has 14 verified in writing the legal authority to maintain 15 confidentiality.

16 "(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) above, may 17 share confidential and privileged documents, material, or 18 information reported pursuant to subsection (1) of Section 19 27-29-4 only with commissioners of states having statutes or 20 regulations substantially similar to subsection (a) and who 21 have agreed in writing not to disclose such information.

"(3) May receive documents, materials, or
information, including otherwise confidential and privileged
documents, materials, or information from the National
Association of Insurance Commissioners and its affiliates and
subsidiaries and from regulatory and law enforcement officials
of other foreign or domestic jurisdictions, and shall maintain

as confidential or privileged any document, material, 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.

6 "(4) Shall enter into written agreements with the 7 National Association of Insurance Commissioners governing 8 sharing and use of information provided pursuant to this 9 chapter consistent with this subsection that shall:

"a. Specify procedures and protocols regarding the
confidentiality and security of information shared with the
National Association of Insurance Commissioners and its
affiliates and subsidiaries pursuant to this chapter,
including procedures and protocols for sharing by the National
Association of Insurance Commissioners with other state,
federal, or international regulators.

17 "b. Specify that ownership of information shared 18 with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and 19 its affiliates and subsidiaries pursuant to this chapter 20 remains with the commissioner and the use of the information 21 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners is 22 subject to the direction of the commissioner.

"c. Require at least 10 days' notice to be given to an insurer whose confidential information in the possession of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners pursuant to this chapter is subject to a request or subpoena to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for disclosure
 or production.

"d. Require the National Association of Insurance 3 4 Commissioners and its affiliates and subsidiaries to consent to intervention by an insurer in any judicial or 5 administrative action in which the National Association of 6 7 Insurance Commissioners and its affiliates and subsidiaries may be required to disclose confidential information about the 8 insurer shared with the National Association of Insurance 9 10 Commissioners and its affiliates and subsidiaries pursuant to 11 this chapter.

"(d) The sharing of information by the commissioner pursuant to this chapter shall not constitute a delegation of regulatory authority or rulemaking, and the commissioner is solely responsible for the administration, execution, and enforcement of this chapter.

17 "(e) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim 18 of confidentiality in the documents, materials, or information 19 shall occur as a result of disclosure to the commissioner 20 under this section or as a result of sharing as authorized in 21 subsection (c).

"(f) Documents, materials, or other information in the possession or control of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners pursuant to this chapter shall be confidential by law and privileged, shall not be subject to open records, freedom of information, sunshine or other public records disclosure laws, shall not be subject to subpoena, and 1 shall not be subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in
2 any private civil action."

3 Section 3. This act shall become effective January
4 1, 2020, following its passage and approval by the Governor,
5 or its otherwise becoming law.