WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §33-40A-8

§33-40A-8. Confidentiality; prohibition on announcements; prohibition on use in ratemaking.

(a) All RBC reports (to the extent the information is not required to be set forth in a publicly available annual statement schedule) and RBC plans (including the results or report of any examination or analysis of a health organization performed pursuant to this statute and any corrective order issued by the commissioner pursuant to examination or analysis) with respect to a domestic health organization or foreign health organization that are in the possession or control of the commissioner are confidential by law and privileged, are not subject to the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-b of this code, are not subject to subpoena, and are not subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in any private civil action. However, the commissioner may 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.

(b) Neither the commissioner nor any person who received documents, materials or other information while acting under the authority of the commissioner are permitted or required to testify in any private civil action concerning any confidential documents, materials or information subject to subsection (a) of this section.

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

(1) May share documents, materials or other information, including the confidential and privileged documents, materials or information subject to subsection (a) of this section, with other state, federal and international regulatory agencies, with the NAIC and its affiliates and subsidiaries, and with state, federal and international law-enforcement authorities, provided that the recipient agrees to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the document, material or other information;

(2) May receive documents, materials or information, including otherwise confidential and privileged documents, materials or information, from the NAIC 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; and

(3) May enter into agreements governing sharing and use of information consistent with this subsection.

(d) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of confidentiality in the documents, materials or information may occur as a result of disclosure to the commissioner under this

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section or as a result of sharing as authorized in subdivision (3), subsection (c) of this section.

(e) It is the finding of the Legislature that the comparison of a health organization's total adjusted capital to any of its RBC levels is a regulatory tool which may indicate the need for corrective action with respect to the health organization, and is not intended as a means to rank health organizations generally. Therefore, except as otherwise required under the provisions of this article, the making, publishing, disseminating, circulating or placing before the public, or causing, directly or indirectly to be made, published, disseminated, circulated or placed before the public, in a newspaper, magazine or other publication, or in the form of a notice, circular, pamphlet, letter or poster, or over a radio or television station, or in any other way, an advertisement, announcement or statement containing an assertion, representation or statement with regard to the RBC levels of any health organization, or of any component derived in the calculation, by any health organization, agent, broker or other person engaged in any manner in the insurance business would be misleading and is therefore prohibited: Provided, That if any materially false statement with respect to the comparison regarding a health organization's total adjusted capital to its RBC levels (or any of them) or an inappropriate comparison of any other amount to the health organization's RBC levels is published in any written publication and the health organization is able to demonstrate to the commissioner with substantial proof the falsity of the statement, or the inappropriateness, as the case may be, then the health organization may publish an announcement in a written publication if the sole purpose of the announcement is to rebut the materially false statement.

(f) It is the further finding of the Legislature that the RBC instructions, RBC reports, adjusted RBC reports, RBC plans and revised RBC plans are intended solely for use by the commissioner in monitoring the solvency of health organizations and the need for possible corrective action with respect to health organizations and shall not be used by the commissioner for ratemaking nor considered or introduced as evidence in any rate proceeding nor used by the commissioner to calculate or derive any elements of an appropriate premium level or rate of return for any line of insurance that a health organization or any affiliate is authorized to write.

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