

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
45 Fremont Street, 21st Floor
San Francisco, California 94105**

**REG-2008-00026
CA 08-10**

July 1, 2009

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING REVISIONS TO CALIFORNIA AUTOMOBILE ASSIGNED RISK
PLAN**

SUBJECT OF HEARING

California Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner will hold a public hearing to address the proposed amendments to Sections 26 and 44 of the California Automobile Assigned Risk Plan (CAARP) Plan of Operations.

AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES AND PROCEDURES AND REFERENCE

The Commissioner will consider the proposed changes pursuant to the authority vested in him by Section 11620 of the California Insurance Code. The Commissioner's decision on the proposed changes will implement, interpret, or make specific the requirements of Insurance Code Section 11624(e). Government Code §11340.9(g) applies to this proceeding.

HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held to permit all interested persons the opportunity to present statements or arguments, orally or in writing, with respect to the proposed changes at the following date, time, and place:

**Date and Time: September 22, 2009
 10:00 a.m.**

**Location: California Department of Insurance
 45 Fremont Street
 22nd Floor Hearing Room
 San Francisco, California 94105**

ACCESS TO HEARING ROOM

The facilities to be used for the public hearing are accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Persons with sight or hearing impairments are requested to notify the contact person (listed below) for this hearing in order to make special arrangements, if necessary.

WRITTEN AND/OR ORAL COMMENTS: AGENCY CONTACT PERSON

All persons are invited to submit written comments to the Insurance Commissioner on the proposal prior to the public comment deadline. Comments should be addressed to the contact person for this proceeding:

Mike Riordan, Staff Counsel
California Department of Insurance
Rate Enforcement Bureau
45 Fremont Street, 21st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
riordanm@insurance.ca.gov
Telephone: (415) 538-4226
Facsimile: (415) 904-5490

The backup agency contact person for this proceeding will be:

Bryant Henley, Senior Staff Counsel
California Department of Insurance
Rate Enforcement Bureau
45 Fremont Street, 21st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
henleyb@insurance.ca.gov
Telephone: (415) 538-4111
Facsimile: (415) 904-5490

All persons are invited to present oral and/or written testimony at the scheduled public hearing.

DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

All written materials, unless submitted at the hearing, must be **received** by the Insurance Commissioner at the address listed above **no later than 5:00 p.m. on, September 22, 2009**. Any written materials received after that time will not be considered. Written comments may also be submitted to the contact person by e-mail or facsimile transmission. Please select only one method to submit written comments.

ADVOCACY OR WITNESS FEES

Persons or groups representing the interest of consumers may be entitled to reasonable advocacy fees, witness fees, and other reasonable expenses, in accordance with the provisions of California Code of Regulations, Title 10, Sections 2662.1-2662.6 in connection with their participation in this matter. Interested persons must submit a Petition to Participate, as specified in California Code of Regulations, Title 10, Section 2661.4. The Petition to Participate must be submitted to the Commissioner at the Office of the Public Advisor at the following address:

California Department of Insurance
Office of the Public Advisor
45 Fremont Street 21st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone: (415) 538-4190

A copy of the Petition to Participate must also be submitted to the contact person for this hearing (listed above). For further information, please contact the Office of the Public Advisor.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

In accordance with current CAARP rules, if the amount of the deposit premium check submitted with the applications does not cover the full amount of the outstanding balance due on a prior Plan policy, the application is ineligible for coverage. The current procedure requires that the assigned insurer of CAIP servicing carrier apply the deposit check to the outstanding earned premium and return the application to the Plan. The Plan returns the application to the producer and notifies the applicant that they are ineligible and no coverage is in effect.

Theoretically, insurer and servicing carrier return of the application to the Plan office enables the Plan to generate a letter returning the application to the producer with a copy to the applicant. The letter indicates the application returned is ineligible and no coverage is in effect. In addition, the risk assignment system is adjusted by the Plan to reflect the return of the applicant to the insurer or servicing carrier.

In practice, some insurers writing private passenger assignments are returning an ineligible application to the Plan while others are returning the application directly to the producer with a copy of the letter to the applicant and the Plan. In instances when the application is returned by the insurer or servicing carrier to the producer, notification of ineligibility and no coverage is timelier.

To ensure consistent insurer and CAIP servicing carrier handling of ineligible applications and to facilitate a quicker return of ineligible applications to the producer, the Plan is proposing to amend the Plan of Operations to require that the assigned insurer or servicing carrier return the application to the producer. The insurer or servicing carrier will provide written notification to the applicant and the Plan that the application has been returned as ineligible and that no coverage is in effect.

COMPARABLE FEDERAL LAW

There are no comparable existing federal regulations or statutes.

LOCAL MANDATE DETERMINATION

The Insurance Commissioner has initially determined that the proposal will not result in any new program mandates on local agencies or school districts.

MANDATES ON LOCAL AGENCIES OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR COSTS WHICH MUST BE REIMBURSED PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 17500 THROUGH 17630

The Insurance Commissioner has initially determined that the proposal will not result in any cost or significant savings to any local agency or school district for which Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code would require reimbursement, or in other nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies.

COST OR SAVINGS TO ANY STATE AGENCY; FEDERAL FUNDING

The Commissioner has determined that the proposed regulation will result in no cost or savings to any state agency and no cost or savings in federal funding to the state.

SIGNIFICANT STATEWIDE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESSES AND THE ABILITY OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESSES TO COMPETE

The Commissioner has initially determined that the proposal will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This proposal will have no effect on the creation or elimination of jobs in California, the creation of new businesses, the elimination of existing businesses in California, or the expansion of businesses in California.

COST IMPACT ON PRIVATE PERSONS OR ENTITIES

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

IMPACT ON HOUSING COSTS

The Insurance Commissioner has initially determined that the proposal will not affect housing costs.

IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The matter proposed herein will affect insurance companies and therefore will not affect small business (Gov. Code Section 11342.610 (b)(2)).

SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES OR EQUIPMENT

The proposal would not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

ALTERNATIVES

The Insurance Commissioner must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the agency, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the agency, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

PLAIN ENGLISH

The proposed changes describing CAARP's proposals are in plain English.

