

House Bill 1134

By: Representative Lord of the 103<sup>rd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to insurance generally, so as to provide that every insurer authorized to issue  
3 property and casualty insurance in this state shall have at least 10 percent of its agents in this  
4 state located in communities with populations of 9,000 persons or less according to the 2000  
5 United States decennial census or any subsequent such census; to provide for penalties and  
6 enforcement; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 24 of Title 33 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 insurance generally, is amended by adding a new Code Section 33-24-59.12 to read as  
11 follows:

12 "33-24-59.12.

13 (a) Every insurer authorized to issue property and casualty insurance in this state shall  
14 have at least 10 percent of its agents in this state located in communities with populations  
15 of 9,000 persons or less according to the 2000 United States decennial census or any  
16 subsequent such census.

17 (b) Each insurer authorized to issue property and casualty insurance in this state shall file  
18 with the Commissioner no later than July 1 of each year a certification of compliance with  
19 this Code section and shall include the number of agents located in communities with  
20 populations of 9,000 persons or less according to the 2000 United States decennial census  
21 or any subsequent such census. The Commissioner is authorized to promulgate such rules  
22 and regulations and forms as he or she may deem appropriate for such certification.

23 (c) If an insurer fails to file the certification required by subsection (b) of this Code section  
24 by July 1 of each year the insurer is authorized to do business in this state, the  
25 Commissioner shall suspend the authorization of such insurer to issue property and  
26 casualty insurance in this state until such certification is filed.

1 (d) The Commissioner, upon his or her own motion or upon a verified complaint being  
2 filed with the Commissioner by a citizen of this state, may conduct a hearing to determine  
3 if an insurer is in compliance with the provisions of this Code section. If, after notice and  
4 hearing in accordance with this title, the Commissioner finds that the insurer is not in  
5 compliance with this Code section, the Commissioner shall immediately suspend the  
6 authorization of the insurer to issue property and casualty insurance in this state until the  
7 insurer provides proof acceptable to the Commissioner of its compliance with this Code  
8 section."

9

**SECTION 2.**

10 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.