
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

SB 147 Original DIGEST Robert Mills
2023 Regular Session

Present law provides for regulation by the Dept. of Insurance of group self-insurers and self-insurance plans for trade and professional associations related to health plans, workers' compensation, accident and health protection for local governments, and automobile coverage for vehicles in certain industries.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the creation of a self-insurance fund for the purpose of providing property insurance coverage for churches and nonprofit religious organizations. Proposed law provides that the fund shall be known as the Louisiana Churches and Nonprofit Religious Self-Insured Fund.

Proposed law provides for legislative findings and public purpose as follows:

- (1) Louisiana is currently experiencing a crisis in the availability and affordability of insurance for churches and other nonprofit religious organizations due, in large part, to the losses associated with the catastrophic events in 2020 and 2021 from hurricanes Laura, Delta, Zeta, and Ida.
- (2) Churches and other nonprofit organizations are at risk of closing or failing to reopen due to the lack of available or affordable insurance.
- (3) Throughout Louisiana, churches and other religious organizations are the bedrock that holds many communities together, providing spiritual and emotional support in times of crisis, services to the needy, mentorship for the youth, assistance to the elderly, disaster relief services, support addiction recovery, prison ministries, and other services. These services are mostly free of charge to the community and result in the saving of untold millions of dollars each year to state and local taxpayers.
- (4) The availability of property insurance for churches and other religious organizations at a reasonable cost is essential to the well-being of the state and these religious groups cannot invest in and lenders will not finance the construction and ownership of churches and religious buildings without adequate property insurance protection. The state has a vital interest in fostering the availability of property insurance at reasonable cost for churches and religious organizations so that they can reopen or remain open to operate for the good of the communities they serve.
- (5) The Louisiana Churches and Nonprofit Religions Organizations Self-Insured Fund is created for the purpose of allowing churches and religious organizations to self-insure and, thereby, increase the availability of property insurance for local churches and to reduce the volume

of business written by the La. Citizens Property Insurance Corp., thereby offering a less expensive alternative to its policyholders and reducing the exposure to an increased deficit and future assessments by the La. Citizens to policy holders.

Proposed law provides for the definitions as follows:

- (1) "Church" means nonprofit religious organization.
- (2) "Fund" means the self-insurance fund established pursuant to proposed law to provide property insurance for churches and nonprofit religious organizations.
- (3) "Nonprofit religious organization" means an active corporation or other entity organized under the federal tax code as a nonprofit organization designated as a church, a religious house of worship, or another entity formed for religious purposes.
- (4) "Religious denomination" means a group of individual churches or houses of worship who are identified together, having a particular set of beliefs or spiritual or religious values.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 22:472.1-472.3)