



West Virginia Offices *of the* Insurance Commissioner

West Virginia Welcomes Insurance Innovators Into its Regulatory “Sandbox”!

July 12, 2021

Commissioner James A. Dodrill is pleased to announce that House Bill 2221, West Virginia’s insurance innovation process, became effective on July 9, 2021. This bill, adopted during the 2021 legislative session, establishes a new program known as the Insurance Regulatory “Sandbox”. The new program is designed to encourage and welcome new and innovative insurance business into the State that might otherwise be subject to more cumbersome and time-consuming regulatory hurdles under West Virginia law.

Innovators should submit their applications with the description of the innovation explaining how the innovation will add value to customers and detail the statutory and regulatory issues that prevent the innovation from being utilized, issued, sold, solicited, distributed or advertised in the market currently. Once application is made to the Insurance Commissioner a notice of acceptance or rejection will be issued within 60 days. The applicant will begin its “beta test”, which is the phase of testing of an insurance innovation in the regulatory sandbox through the use, sale, license or availability of the insurance innovation by or to clients or consumers under the supervision of the Insurance Commissioner. The maximum time period for the beta test is three years.

“With this new legislation, we are laying out the welcome mat - encouraging companies to consider the West Virginia market for insurance innovation”, said Commissioner Dodrill. “Insurance products and services are rapidly changing and I strongly believe our market provides companies a great opportunity to explore innovative products that are good for consumers and businesses alike”, Dodrill added.

For complete information about this new legislation, please refer to [W. Va. Code §33-60](#). You can also direct questions to OICBulletins@wv.gov or call (304) 558-0401.