

New law defines a "certificate of insurance", as used by property and casualty insurers, as a document issued on or behalf of an insurer to a third party who has not contracted with the insurer to purchase an insurance policy and is provided for informational purposes only to advise a third party of the existence and limits of insurance coverage issued to the named insured. Further defines an "insurance producer" as a person required to be licensed under the laws of this state to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance, including all persons or business entities otherwise referred to in existing law as "insurance agent" or "agent", "insurance broker" or "broker", "insurance solicitor" or "solicitor", or "surplus lines broker".

New law prohibits any property or casualty insurer or insurance producer from issuing a certificate of insurance or any other type of document purporting to be a certificate of insurance that will affirmatively or negatively alter, amend, or extend the coverage provided by the referenced insurance policy.

New law further provides that any insurer or insurance producer issuing such a certificate shall be authorized to use only certain specific forms or a form filed with and approved by the commissioner of insurance. Additionally authorizes the commissioner, pursuant to the APA, to adopt reasonable and necessary rules to carry out the purposes of new law.

Effective August 15, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 22:881.1)