

**304.42-090 Assessments -- Classification -- Certificate of contribution -- Payment under protest.**

- (1) For the purpose of providing the funds necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the association, the board of directors shall assess the member insurers, separately for each account, at such time and for such amounts as the board finds necessary. Assessments shall be due not less than thirty (30) days after prior written notice to the member insurers and shall accrue interest at eight percent (8%) per annum on and after the due date.
- (2) There shall be two (2) classes of assessments:
  - (a) Class A assessments shall be made for the purpose of meeting administrative and legal costs and other expenses. Class A assessments may be authorized and called whether or not related to a particular impaired or insolvent insurer;
  - (b) Class B assessments shall be authorized and called to the extent necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the association under KRS 304.42-080 with regard to an impaired or insolvent insurer.
- (3)
  - (a) The amount of any Class A assessment shall be determined by the board and may be authorized and called on a pro rata or non-pro rata basis. If pro rata, the board may provide that it be credited against future Class B assessments. The total of all non-pro rata assessments shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per member insurer in any one (1) calendar year. The amount of any Class B assessment shall be allocated for assessment purposes among the accounts pursuant to an allocation formula which may be based on the premiums or reserves of the impaired or insolvent insurer or any other standard deemed by the board in its sole discretion as being fair and reasonable under the circumstances.
  - (b) Class B assessments against member insurers for each account shall be in the proportion that the premiums received on business in this state by each assessed member insurer on policies or contracts covered by each account for the three (3) most recent calendar years for which information is available preceding the year in which the insurer became insolvent, or in the case of assessment with respect to an impaired insurer, the three (3) most recent calendar years for which information is available preceding the year in which the insurer became impaired, bears to such premiums received on business in this state for such calendar years by all assessed member insurers.
  - (c) Assessments for funds to meet the requirements of the association with respect to an impaired or insolvent insurer shall not be made until necessary to implement the purposes of this subtitle. Classification of assessments under subsection (2) of this section and computation of assessments under this subsection shall be made with a reasonable degree of accuracy, recognizing that exact determinations may not always be possible. The association shall notify each member insurer of its anticipated pro rata share of an authorized assessment not yet called within one hundred eighty (180) days after the assessment is authorized.

- (4) The association may abate or defer, in whole or in part, the assessment of a member insurer if, in the opinion of the board, payment of the assessment would endanger the ability of the member insurer to fulfill its contractual obligations. In the event an assessment against a member insurer is abated, or deferred in whole or in part, the amount by which such assessment is abated or deferred may be assessed against the other member insurers in a manner consistent with the basis for assessments set forth in this section. Once the conditions that caused a deferral have been removed or rectified, the member shall pay all assessments that were deferred under a repayment plan approved by the association.
- (5)
  - (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection, the total of all assessments authorized by the association with respect to a member insurer for each account shall not in any one (1) calendar year exceed two percent (2%) of the insurer's average annual premiums received in this state on the policies and contracts covered by the account during the three (3) calendar years preceding the year in which the insurer became an impaired or insolvent insurer. If the maximum assessment, together with the other assets of the association in any other account, does not provide in any one (1) year in any other account an amount sufficient to carry out the responsibilities of the association, the necessary additional funds shall be assessed as soon thereafter as permitted by this subtitle.
  - (b) If two (2) or more assessments are authorized in one (1) calendar year with respect to insurers that become impaired or insolvent in different calendar years, the average annual premiums for purposes of the aggregate assessment percentage limitation referenced in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be equal and limited to the higher of the three (3) year average annual premiums for the applicable account as calculated under this section.
  - (c) The board may provide in the plan of operation a method of allocating funds among claims, whether relating to one (1) or more impaired or insolvent insurers, when the maximum assessment will be insufficient to cover anticipated claims.
- (6) The board may, by an equitable method as established in the plan of operation, refund to member insurers, in proportion to the contribution of each insurer to that account, the amount by which the assets of the account exceed the amount the board finds is necessary to carry out during the coming year the obligations of the association with regard to that account, including assets accruing from assignment, subrogation, net realized gains and income from investments. A reasonable amount may be retained in any account to provide funds for the continuing expenses of the association and for future losses claims.
- (7) It shall be proper for any member insurer, in determining its premium rates and policy owner dividends as to any kind of insurance within the scope of this subtitle, to consider the amount reasonably necessary to meet its assessment obligations under this subtitle.
- (8) The association shall issue to each insurer paying an assessment under this subtitle, other than a Class A assessment, a certificate of contribution, in a form prescribed

by the commissioner, for the amount of the assessment so paid. All outstanding certificates shall be of equal dignity and priority without reference to amounts or dates of issue. A certificate of contribution may be shown by the insurer in its financial statement as an asset in such form and for such amount, if any, and period of time as the commissioner may approve.

- (9)
  - (a) A member insurer that wishes to protest all or part of an assessment shall pay when due the full amount of the assessment as set forth in the notice provided by the association. The payment shall be available to meet association obligations during the pendency of the protest or any subsequent appeal. Payment shall be accompanied by a statement in writing that the payment is made under protest and setting forth a brief statement of the grounds for the protest.
  - (b) Within sixty (60) days following the payment of an assessment under protest by a member insurer, the association shall notify the member insurer in writing of its determination with respect to the protest unless the association notifies the member insurer that additional time is required to resolve the issues raised by the protest.
  - (c) Within thirty (30) days after a final decision has been made, the association shall notify the protesting member insurer in writing of that final decision. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice of the final decision, the protesting member insurer may appeal the final action to the commissioner, in accordance with KRS 304.42-110(3).
  - (d) In the alternative to rendering a final decision with respect to a protest based on a question regarding the assessment base, the association may refer protests to the commissioner for a final decision, with or without a recommendation from the association.
  - (e) If the protest or appeal on the assessment is upheld, the amount paid in error or excess shall be returned to the member company. Interest on a refund due a protesting member shall be paid at the rate actually earned by the association.
- (10) The association may request information of member insurers in order to aid in the exercise of its power under this section and member insurers shall promptly comply with a request.

**Effective:** July 15, 2010

**History:** Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 24, sec. 1563, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 537, sec. 6, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1988 Ky. Acts ch. 282, sec. 4, effective July 15, 1988. -- Amended 1986 Ky. Acts ch. 437, sec. 32, effective July 15, 1986. -- Created 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 282, sec. 9, effective June 17, 1978.