



## **PIACT legislative update—March 4, 2009**

For those concerned with the sheer volume of property and casualty insurance-related bills, the preceding week was quiet in comparison to the earlier days of Connecticut's 2009 legislative session.

This does not mean that the Insurance and Real Estate Committee has been idle, however. Indeed, between the March 2 and 3 committee sessions, 19 bills were considered. The 15 heard during Monday's session revolved around health insurance-related issues. PIACT is aware that a large number of our members sell health policies and we are concerned with legislation affecting their businesses in general. We are especially concerned with health-specific bills if we see them as having an impact on the general producer community, or when we see them as a step in a direction that we are concerned with and do not want to see applied to the property/casualty realm.

In particular, PIACT is closely watching S.B. 1047, a measure to restrict physician self-referral with regard to diagnostic tests, a practice associated with higher costs to consumers. Any measure to curb excessive costs borne by insurers, (costs invariably passed on to consumers) whether by stamping out fraud, controlling unnecessary tests and procedures and eliminating wasteful or inefficient practices is supported by PIACT.

A significant bill, Raised Bill 1024, was considered by the committee on March 3, 2009. This bill seeks to establish a state fund for the workers' compensation market, a move which does not seem to be supported by any need or deficiency in Connecticut's existing workers' compensation market. PIACT is closely following this bill and stands ready to fight to protect an already healthy system.

Please continue to check [PIACT's legislative hot lists](#) to stay abreast of what is happening in the Legislature and how PIACT is making sure your voice is heard.

3/09

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