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## **PIANH legislative update**

**Ongoing legislative issues.** PIANH volunteers and staff met recently to discuss issues and priorities of producers resulting from the 2008 legislative session, new producer requirements contained in passed legislation and legislative study committees are expected to be implemented now that the Legislature has adjourned. The meeting was the final scheduled meeting of a Joint Legislative Committee established by PIANH and IIANH to review legislative and regulatory matter affecting agencies, their principals and employees.

During the meeting, PIANH volunteers discussed a number of bills passed by the Legislature effecting producers, including a review of PIANH's biggest victory this session; a fix for the workers' compensation [HB471](#) debacle effectuated by [HB692](#). The group also discussed the expected implementation of a proposal ([HB1244](#)) reported on last week by PIANH that would govern audible policies and specify that carriers must audit on an annual and not multi-year basis. Agents also discussed [HB1573](#) which sets the priority for policy liens and [SB501](#) concerning new guidelines for permanent injuries in workers' compensation. The later proposal establishes a task force to compare the two versions of the guidelines 5 and 6.

**New producer requirements?** PIANH also discussed the impact upon producers of pending legislation designed to address the incidences of fraud in the workers' compensation system. The bill ([SB500](#), see section 4: establishing a new section 412:37-a Certificates of Insurance), passed by both houses and being sent to the governor, contains provisions relating to requirements placed on producers to list excluded officers on issued certificates of insurance. The bill also requires original signatures and codifies the submission of electronic signatures. PIANH is working with other producer associations to examine the impacts of this pending proposal on its members and plans to communicate their shared concerns to the governor through the state Insurance Department. Potential issues include E&O and fraud exposure for errors on the certificate. PIANH members are invited to share their concerns regarding this [proposal](#) via e-mail at [govaffairs@pia.org](mailto:govaffairs@pia.org).

### **Pending legislative study committees**

Finally, PIANH volunteers and staff discussed the formation of a number of study committees established by legislation considered at the statehouse this session. The committees have the potential to affect PIANH's producer members and, therefore, will be closely monitored. They include a study of reasonable compensation established by [HB1308](#); a committee to explore identity theft established by [HB1531](#); and a proposal ([HB1337](#)) that would establish a private right of action under the consumer protection act for insurance. Currently, the insurance industry is exempted from the act.