



**NEW YORK**

***News Release***

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**PIANY's COI bill would offer relief to agents**

**GLENMONT, N.Y.**—At the request of The Professional Insurance Agents of New York State Inc., state Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, D-132, and state Sen. James Seward, R-51, jointly introduced a bill establishing standards and penalties on the issuance of certificates of insurance. The two chairs of the Assembly and Senate Insurance Committees worked closely with multiple insurance trade groups, including PIANY, to craft language that addresses recent problems by: defining certificates of insurance; prohibiting certain practices, establishing certificate standards; and authorizing the New York State Insurance Department to enforce the new provisions.

“We’re very pleased to see this legislation introduced,” said PIANY President Donna Chiapperino. “For too long, the lack of a legal definition and oversight of practice for certificates of insurance has created confusion among some clients and third parties, who in turn made illegal demands of independent insurance agents. We hope this bill will help clarify what certificates can and can’t do and offer producers much-needed protection, and we thank Assemblyman Morelle and Sen. Seward for it.”

Under current law, an insurance producer may not alter a certificate of insurance to modify the terms of the actual policy unless authorized by the insurer after filing with the NYSID superintendent. The NYSID may take disciplinary actions against producers that engage in this practice. However, those who request a certificate that alters the terms of the policy, are *not* regulated by the NYSID and it has no authority to prohibit them from demanding improper certificates of insurance.

The introduction of this legislation is just the latest of PIANY’s efforts to clarify this issue for members. In addition to [Webinars](#) and multiple [QuickSource documents](#) designed to provide guidance for agents, [PIA National and ACORD](#) committed to jointly developing a series of education pieces designed to help people understand what certificates of insurance are used for, what they mean and most importantly, what they do not mean. PIANY will monitor the current legislation and continue to offer constructive feedback on behalf of its members.

PIANY is a trade association representing professional, independent insurance agencies, brokerages, and their employees throughout the state.