



# LEGISLATIVE POSITION

PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS OF CONNECTICUT INC.

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**DATE:** Feb. 28, 2019  
**TO:** Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
**FROM:** Professional Insurance Agents of Connecticut Inc.

**STATEMENT RE: H.B.7172—AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING-  
EDUCATION CREDITS FOR INSURANCE PRODUCERS**

The Professional Insurance Agents of Connecticut, or PIACT, is pleased to support Raised House Bill No. 7172, “An act concerning continuing-education credits for insurance producers.”

PIACT is a voluntary, membership-based trade association representing professional, independent property/casualty insurance agents. Our members and their employees doing business in Connecticut provide primarily property and casualty insurance to businesses and individual clients throughout the state.

PIACT supports this legislation that would authorize the commissioner of the Insurance Department to grant six credit hours of continuing education for a licensee's active membership in a statewide professional insurance producer association.

Recognizing that Connecticut’s insurance producer associations promote professionalism, best practices, ethical compliance, continuing-education training and networking opportunities to their members, as well as providing younger members an opportunity to be mentored by more established insurance producers, thereby enhancing their business prospects, PIACT supports this bill. PIACT strongly believes that it is in the best interest of the state of Connecticut to encourage insurance producers to join their trade associations and participate in that association's meetings, conferences and educational seminars. Participation or active membership in an insurance producer association creates a more knowledgeable and professional insurance producer. Being an active member of an insurance producer association helps producers keep up-to-date on new technology in the insurance industry, comply with relevant state regulations and ensures they are knowledgeable about new and changing issues in insurance that will help them be a better producer and, just as importantly, serve their clients better.

This bill furthers that interest by requiring the commissioner of the Insurance Department to grant at least six credit hours of an insurance producer's legal continuing-education requirement for active membership in good standing in a qualified association. The bill defines “active membership” as:

- (i) certification by the licensee to the commissioner that the member was in good standing of a statewide professional insurance producer association;
- (ii) certification to the commissioner by the licensee that the member has read the professional insurance producer association's code of ethics; and
- (iii) certification to the commissioner by the licensee that the licensee has attended at least one educational meeting, presentation or conference sponsored by the professional insurance producer association during the applicable two-year period.

For all of these reasons, PIACT urges your approval of this bill. PIACT commends the Legislature for recognizing the value of association membership.