1 2	State of Arkansas 93rd General Assembly	A Bill	
2	Regular Session, 2021		HOUSE BILL 1238
4	Regular Session, 2021		HOUSE DIEL 1256
5	By: Representative Lowery	V	
6	By: Senator J. Hendren	,	
7			
8		For An Act To Be Entitled	
9	AN ACT I	TO ENACT THE STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT'	S
10	GENERAL	OMNIBUS; TO MODIFY THE SELF-INSURED FID	DELITY
11	BOND PRO	OGRAM; TO REPEAL THE FEES PAYABLE BY AN	
12	INACTIVE	E AGENT; TO MODIFY THE ACCEPTABLE METHOD	OS BY
13	WHICH AN	N INSURER MAY MAKE A PAYMENT; TO MODIFY	THE
14	LICENSIN	NG AND REGULATION OF CAPTIVE INSURERS; T	0
15	MODIFY 7	THE INTENT OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE A	NNUAL
16	DISCLOSU	JRE ACT; TO MODIFY THE EXCEPTIONS TO THE	2
17	SURPLUS	LINES INSURANCE LAW; TO MODIFY THE FILI	NG
18	REQUIREM	IENTS FOR AN AGREEMENT OF MERGER OR	
19	CONSOLII	DATION OR PLAN OF EXCHANGE OF SHARES OF	A
20	CORPORAT	FION UNDER THE ARKANSAS INSURANCE CODE;	ТО
21	CLARIFY	THE APPLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS INSURAN	ICE
22	CODE TO	A STIPULATED PREMIUM PLAN INSURER; TO C	CLARIFY
23	THE APPI	LICATION OF THE ARKANSAS INSURANCE CODE	TO A
24	MUTUAL A	ASSESSMENT LIFE AND DISABILITY INSURER;	ТО
25	CLARIFY	THE APPLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS INSURAN	ICE
26	CODE TO	A FARMERS' MUTUAL AID COMPANY OR ASSOCI	ATION;
27	TO CLARI	IFY THE APPLICATION OF THE ARKANSAS INSU	IRANCE
28	CODE TO	FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES; TO CLARIFY	THE
29	APPLICAT	TION OF THE ARKANSAS INSURANCE CODE TO	
30	HOSPITAI	SERVICE CORPORATIONS AND MEDICAL SERVI	CE
31	CORPORAT	CIONS; TO REPEAL THE PROTECTION AGAINST	
32	INSOLVEN	NCY OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION	I; ТО
33	MODIFY 7	THE METHOD OF SETTLING CLAIMS UNDER THE	MODEL
34	ACT FOR	THE REGULATION OF CREDIT LIFE INSURANCE	L AND
35	CREDIT I	DISABILITY INSURANCE; TO MODIFY THE	
36	REGISTRA	ATION OR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MU	ULTIPLE



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1	EMPLOYER TRUST OR MULTIPLE EMPLOYER WELFARE
2	ARRANGEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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5	Subtitle
6	TO ENACT THE STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT'S
7	GENERAL OMNIBUS.
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10	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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12	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 21-2-701 is amended to read as follows:
13	21-2-701. Purpose.
14	It is found and determined that:
15	(1) The State of Arkansas and the counties, municipalities, and
16	school districts of the State of Arkansas are expending large sums of money
17	each year for premiums on blanket bonds for officers and employees;
18	(2) Considerable savings might be effected by the establishment
19	of a self-insured fidelity bond program for <u>any fraudulent or dishonest act</u>
20	committed by any state officials and employees, county officials and
21	employees, municipal officials and employees, and school district officials
22	and employees;
23	(3) This subchapter is designed to establish a governmental
24	bonding board to develop a self-insured fidelity bond program for <del>those</del>
25	officials and employees participating government entities; and
26	(4) This subchapter is designed to provide that self-insured
27	fidelity bonds would be in lieu of the various <u>fidelity</u> blanket bonds <del>which</del>
28	$\underline{that}$ are presently required under this chapter for various officials and
29	employees and to thereby effectuate substantial savings in the cost of
30	fidelity blanket bonds for those officials and employees.
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32	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 21-2-702 is amended to read as follows:
33	21-2-702. Definitions.
34	As used in this subchapter:
35	(1) "Audit" or "audit report" means an audit or other
36	statutorily allowed financial examination of the books and records;

(2) "Commissioner" means the Insurance Commissioner;

2 (3) "County" means the county or counties of the State of3 Arkansas;

4 (4) "County public official" or "county public employee" means 5 any elected officer of the counties and the employees or deputies of any 6 elected officer, members of the quorum court, and the members of the various 7 county boards and commissions, excluding officials and employees of county 8 hospitals, county nursing homes, and conservation and improvement districts; 9 (5)(A) "Fidelity bond" means coverage for actual loss of value sustained as defined in subdivisions (6), (10), and (13) of this section, 10 11 that is incurred as a result of any fraudulent or dishonest act, whether or 12 not the result of a single act or series of acts committed against a 13 participating government entity by officials or employees. (B) "Fidelity bond" includes a fidelity blanket bond; 14 15 (6) "Money" means currency, coins, and bank notes in current use and having a face value and travelers' checks, register checks, and money 16

17 orders held for sale to the general public;

18 (6)(7) "Municipal" or "municipality" means the municipalities of 19 the State of Arkansas;

20 (7)(8) "Municipal public official" or "municipal public
21 employee" means any elected officer of the municipalities and the employees
22 or deputies of any elected officer, specifically including salaried municipal
23 employees of municipally owned utilities, members of the city council,
24 including the mayor, and the members of the various municipal boards and
25 commissions, but excluding officials and employees of municipal hospitals,
26 nursing homes, and improvement districts;

27 (8)(9) "Participating governmental entity" means those
28 organizations defined in subdivisions (3), (6), (10), and (13) subdivisions
29 (3), (7), (11), and (14) of this section;

30 (9)(10) "Property other than money and securities" means any 31 tangible property, other than money and securities, that has intrinsic value; 32 (10)(11) "School district" means the school districts and open-33 enrollment public charter schools of the State of Arkansas;

34 (11)(12) "School district public official" or "school district
 35 public employee" means all school district salaried officials and salaried
 36 school district employees, whether elected or appointed, and the members of

1 local school boards of directors; 2 (12)(13) "Securities" means negotiable and nonnegotiable 3 instruments or contracts representing either money or other property and 4 includes: 5 (A) Tokens, tickets, and revenue and other stamps in 6 current use whether represented by actual stamps or unused value in a meter; 7 and 8 (B) Evidences of debt, other than money, issued in 9 connection with credit or charge cards; 10 (13)(14) "State" means the State of Arkansas; 11 (14)(15) "State officers and employees" means all elected and 12 appointed salaried officials of the state and their salaried state employees, the salaried officials and salaried employees of all state boards and 13 14 commissions, members of the General Assembly, and nonsalaried appointed 15 members of the various state boards and commissions; and 16 (15)(16) "State public official" or "state public employee" 17 means any elected or appointed salaried officer of the State of Arkansas and 18 the salaried governmental employees of that elected or appointed officer, 19 members of the General Assembly, and the nonsalaried members of the various 20 state boards and commissions. 21 22 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 21-2-703 is amended to read as follows: 23 21-2-703. Coverage in lieu of statutory fidelity bonds. (a)(1) The fidelity bond coverage provided under this subchapter shall 24 25 be in lieu of all statutorily required fidelity bonds for any fraudulent or 26 dishonest act committed by the various public officers, officials, and 27 employees of a participating government entity participating in the Self-28 Insured Fidelity Bond Program. 29 (2) The various laws specifically requiring surety fidelity 30 bonds or *fidelity* blanket bonds for the respective public officials, 31 officers, and employees shall not be applicable so long as the fidelity bonds 32 as provided in this subchapter are in effect covering the officials, officers, and employees. 33 34 (b) In the event coverage shall cease ceases to be provided for any or 35 all of the fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by any public officials, 36 officers, or employees pursuant to this subchapter, the laws currently in

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2 again become applicable to the <u>public</u> officials, officers, and employees.

4 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 21-2-704(a), concerning the establishment 5 of the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program, is amended to read as follows:

6 (a) There is established a <u>the</u> Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program for 7 <u>a fraudulent or dishonest act committed by any</u> state officials and employees, 8 county officials and employees, municipal officials and employees, and school 9 district officials and employees, to be administered by the Governmental 10 Bonding Board.

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12 13 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 21-2-706 is amended to read as follows: 21-2-706. Administration.

It shall be <u>is</u> the responsibility of the Governmental Bonding Board to develop and administer the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program <del>for state</del> officers and employees, state public officials and public employees, and county, municipal, and school district public officials and public employees.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 21-2-708(a), concerning notice and proof of loss under the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program, is amended to read as follows:

22 (a) The Legislative Auditor, with the approval of the Legislative 23 Joint Auditing Committee, shall give notice and make proof of loss to the 24 Governmental Bonding Board under the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program on 25 behalf of a public official, officer, or employee participating governmental 26 entity when the audit of the records of the public official, officer, or 27 employee participating governmental entity reflects unauthorized 28 disbursements or unaccounted-for funds or property for which the public 29 official, officer, or employee may be liable.

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31 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 21-2-709(b)(1), concerning the assignment 32 of rights to the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program, is amended to read as 33 follows:

(b)(1)(A) Before any loss payment is paid from the fund, the recipient
of the loss payment shall sign and return a transfer of rights form assigning
to the fund program to the extent of the loss payment all rights and claims

1 that the recipient may have against the official, officer, or employee 2 involved. 3 (B) The fund program shall be subrogated to all of the 4 rights of the recipients of the loss payment to the extent of the loss 5 payment. 6 7 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 21-2-710(a), concerning billing 8 certification under the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program, is amended to 9 read as follows: 10 The Governmental Bonding Board, with the assistance of the State (a) 11 Insurance Department, shall prepare a billing certification to be remitted to 12 the: 13 (1)(A) Department of Finance and Administration. Upon receipt 14 of this the billing certification, the Secretary of the Department of Finance 15 and Administration shall pay it the billing certification from funds specifically appropriated for it the billing certification by the General 16 17 Assembly or from other funds available therefor to pay for the billing 18 certification. 19 (B) Funds so appropriated for premiums for fidelity bonds 20 for state public officials and employees and state officers and employees or 21 funds otherwise made available for this purpose shall not be subject to 22 reduction as a result of any shortfall of projected revenues; and 23 (2) Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, who shall pay it the 24 billing certification from funds withheld from the: 25 (A) County Aid Fund which that are due each county participating in the Self-Insured Fidelity Bond Program for premiums for 26 27 fidelity bonds for county public officials and employees; 28 (B) Municipal Aid Fund which that are due each 29 municipality participating in the program for premiums for fidelity bonds for 30 municipal public officials and employees; and 31 (C) Public School Fund which that are due each school 32 district participating in the program for premiums for fidelity bonds for 33 school district officials and employees. 34 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 23-61-707 is repealed. 35 36 23-61-707. Fees payable by agents on inactive license status.

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1 (a) Effective on and after July 1, 1999, the Insurance Commissioner 2 shall collect in advance the following fees and miscellaneous charges: 3 (1) Facsimile copies, per page ..... 4 <del>\$0.50</del> 5 (2) Hard copy printout of one microfiche page ..... 6 1.00 7 (3) Electronic copies, per page 8 ----- 0.25 9 (b) The commissioner shall deposit all such fees required by this 10 section directly into the State Insurance Department Trust Fund as special 11 revenues. 12 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 23-63-107 is amended to read as follows: 13 14 23-63-107. Prompt processing of payment by insurer. 15 (a) No An insurer shall not intentionally or unreasonably delay, for 16 more than three (3) business days after presentment for collection, the 17 processing of any properly executed and endorsed check, or draft, or 18 electronic funds transfer issued in settlement of an insurance claim. 19 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that insureds or 20 elaimants shall an insured or a claimant be paid their the insured's or the 21 claimant's settlement proceeds at the earliest possible time. 22 (c) Any insurer violating this section shall pay the insured or the 23 claimant a penalty of two hundred dollars (\$200) or fifteen percent (15%) of 24 the face amount of the check, or draft, or electronic funds transfer, 25 whichever is higher. 26 27 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 23-63-1601(8), concerning the definition of "captive insurance company" used in the licensing and regulation of 28 29 captive insurers, is amended to read as follows: 30 (8) "Captive insurance company" means a producer reinsurance 31 captive insurance company, branch captive insurance company, pure captive 32 insurance company, association captive insurance company, sponsored captive 33 insurance company, special purpose captive insurance company, or industrial 34 insured captive insurance company formed or licensed under this subchapter; 35 36 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 23-63-1601(21), concerning the definition

1 of "producer reinsurance captive insurance company" used in the licensing and 2 regulation of captive insurers, is amended to read as follows: 3 (21) "Producer reinsurance captive insurance company" means a 4 company that is wholly owned by a resident licensed insurance producer and 5 that acts only as a reinsurer for risks written by or placed through its 6 parent or an affiliate of its parent; 7 8 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 23-63-1602(c)(5), concerning the 9 information required to apply for licensure as a captive insurer, is amended to read as follows: 10 11 (5) Information submitted under this subsection subchapter is 12 confidential and may shall not be made public by the commissioner or an agent 13 or employee of the commissioner without the written consent of the captive 14 insurance company except that: 15 (A)(i) Information may be discoverable by a party in a 16 civil action or contested case to which the captive insurance company that 17 submitted the information is a party, upon a showing by the party seeking to 18 discover the information that: 19 (a) The information sought is relevant to and 20 necessary for the furtherance of the action or case; 21 (b) The information sought is unavailable from 22 other nonconfidential sources; and 23 (c) A subpoena issued by a judicial or 24 administrative officer of competent jurisdiction has been submitted to the 25 commissioner. 26 (ii) However, subdivision (c)(4) of this section 27 does not apply to an industrial insured captive insurance company insuring 28 the risks of an industrial insured group; and 29 (B) The commissioner may disclose the information to a public officer official having jurisdiction over the regulation of insurance 30 31 in another state if: 32 The public official agrees in writing to (i) 33 maintain the confidentiality of the information; and 34 (ii) The laws of the state in which the public 35 official serves require the information to be confidential. 36

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1 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 23-63-2002(b), concerning the intent of 2 the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act, is amended to read as 3 follows: 4 It is the intent of the General Assembly that this subchapter: (b) 5 (1) Shall not Not be construed to prescribe or impose corporate 6 governance standards and internal procedures beyond that which is required 7 under applicable state corporate law; 8 (2) Shall not Not be construed to limit the commissioner's 9 authority or the rights or obligations under § 23-61-201 et seq.; and 10 (3) Applies Apply only to an a multistate insurer domiciled in 11 this state. 12 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 23-65-302 is amended to read as follows: 13 14 23-65-302. Exceptions. 15 This subchapter shall does not apply to reinsurance or to the following 16 insurances types of insurance when so placed by licensed agents or brokers of 17 this state: 18 (1) Wet marine and foreign trade insurance; 19 (2) Insurance on subjects that are: 20 Located, resident, or to be performed outside this (A) 21 state; or 22 (B) On vehicles or aircraft principally garaged outside 23 this state; 24 Insurance on property or operation of railroads engaged in (3) 25 interstate commerce; and 26 Accident and health coverage; and (4) 27 (5) Insurance of aircraft: 28 (A) Owned or operated by manufacturers of aircraft; 29 (B) Operated in scheduled interstate flight; 30 (C) Cargo; or 31 (D) Against liability, other than workers' compensation 32 and employer's liability, arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use 33 of the aircraft. 34 35 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 23-69-144(c)(3), concerning the filing of 36 a duplicate original of the agreement of merger or consolidation or plan of

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l exchange of shares, is repealed.

2 (3) One (1) of the duplicate originals, bearing the file marks 3 of the commissioner, shall be filed for record in the office of the clerk of 4 the county court of the county in which the principal office or place of 5 business of the merged or consolidated corporation adopting the plan of 6 exchange, as specified in the merger or consolidation agreement or plan of 7 exchange, is located. 8 9 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 23-71-103(9), concerning provisions of the 10 Arkansas Insurance Code applicable to stipulated premium plan insurers, is 11 amended to read as follows: 12 (9) Sections 23-66-201 - 23-66-214 23-66-213, 23-66-301 - 23-66-13 306, 23-66-308 – 23-66-311, 23-66-313, and 23-66-314, and 23-66-501 – 23-66-513, trade practices and frauds; 14 15 16 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 23-72-103(8), concerning provisions of the 17 Arkansas Insurance Code applicable to mutual assessment life and disability 18 insurers, is amended to read as follows: 19 (8) Sections 23-66-201 - 23-66-214 23-66-213, 23-66-301 - 23-66-20 306, 23-66-308 – 23-66-311, 23-66-313, and 23-66-314, and 23-66-501 – 23-66-21 513, trade practice and frauds; 22 23 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 23-73-104(4), concerning provisions of the 24 Arkansas Insurance Code applicable to farmers' mutual aid companies or 25 associations, is amended to read as follows: 26 (4) Sections 23-66-201 - 23-66-214 23-66-213, 23-66-301 - 23-66-27 306, 23-66-308 - 23-66-311, 23-66-313, and 23-66-314, and 23-66-501 - 23-66-28 513, trade practices and frauds; 29 30 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 23-74-705 is amended to read as follows: 31 23-74-705. Applicability of other code provisions. 32 In addition to those the provisions contained in this chapter, the 33 following provisions of this code shall also apply to fraternal benefit 34 societies to the extent as applicable: 35 (1) Sections 23-60-101 - 23-60-108 and 23-60-110, general 36 provisions;

1 (2) Section 23-61-101 et seq., § 23-61-201 et seq., and § 23-61-2 301 et seq., the State Insurance Department; 3 (3) Section 23-61-401, license and miscellaneous fees; 4 (4) Section 23-65-101 et seq., the Unauthorized Insurers Process 5 Act, § 23-65-201 et seq., and the Surplus Lines Insurance Law, § 23-65-301 et 6 seq., unauthorized insurers and surplus lines; 7 (5) Sections 23-66-501 - 23-66-513, fraudulent insurance acts; 8 (6) Sections 23-68-101 - 23-68-113 and 23-68-115 - 23-68-132, 9 rehabilitation and liquidation; and 10 (6)(7) Section 23-79-208, damages and attorney's fees on loss 11 claims. 12 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 23-75-102(7), concerning provisions of the 13 14 Arkansas Insurance Code applicable to hospital service corporations and 15 medical service corporations, is amended to read as follows: 16 (7) Section The Trade Practices Act, § 23-66-201 et seq., §§ 23-17 66-301 - 23-66-306, 23-66-308 - 23-66-311, 23-66-313, and 23-66-314, and 23-18 66-501 - 23-66-513, referring to trade practices and frauds; 19 20 SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 23-76-118 is repealed. 21 23-76-118. Protection against insolvency. 22 (a) Deposit Requirements. 23 (1)(A) All health maintenance organizations authorized to 24 transact business in this state shall deposit through the Insurance 25 Commissioner securities eligible for deposit under § 23-63-903 that at all 26 times shall have a par or market value of not less than three hundred 27 thousand dollars (\$300,000), with the exception of limited benefit health maintenance organizations whose security deposit shall not be less than one 28 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). 29 30 (B) The commissioner shall also be authorized to require a special surplus deposit for the benefit of enrollees from each health 31 32 maintenance organization. 33 (2) All deposits made through the commissioner and held in this 34 state shall be subject to the applicable provisions of §§ 23-63-903 - 23-63-35 907, 23-63-910, and 23-63-911, which refer to administration of deposits. 36 (3)(A)(i) A health maintenance organization, excluding limited

1	benefit health maintenance organizations, that is in operation on August 1,
2	1997, shall make a deposit equal to one hundred fifty thousand dollars
3	<del>(\$150,000).</del>
4	(ii) In the second year, the amount of the
5	additional deposit for a health maintenance organization that is in operation
6	August 1, 1997, shall be equal to one hundred fifty thousand dollars
7	(\$150,000), for a total of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000).
8	(B)(i) A limited benefit health maintenance organization
9	that is in operation on August 1, 1997, shall make a deposit equal to
10	seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000).
11	(ii) In the second year, the amount of the
12	additional deposit for a limited benefit health maintenance organization that
13	is in operation on August 1, 1997, shall be equal to twenty-five thousand
14	dollars (\$25,000) for a total of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).
15	(4) The deposit shall be an admitted asset of the health
16	maintenance organization in the determination of net worth.
17	(5)(A) The deposit shall be used to protect the interests of the
18	health maintenance organization's enrollees and to assure continuation of
19	healthcare services to enrollees of a health maintenance organization that is
20	in rehabilitation or conservation.
21	(B) The commissioner may use the deposit for
22	administrative costs directly attributable to a receivership or liquidation.
23	(C) If the health maintenance organization is placed in
24	receivership or liquidation, the deposit shall be an asset subject to the
25	provisions of the Uniform Insurers Liquidation Act, § 23-68-101 et seq.
26	(b)(1)(A) No participating provider or the provider's agent, trustee,
27	or assignee may maintain an action at law against a subscriber or enrollee to
28	collect sums owed by the health maintenance organization nor make any
29	statement, either written or oral, to any subscriber or enrollee that makes
30	demand for, or would lead a reasonable person to believe that a demand is
31	being made for, payment of any amounts owed by the health maintenance
32	organization.
33	(B)(i) If a participating provider has a pattern or
34	practice of violating this subsection and continues to violate this
35	subsection after the Insurance Commissioner has issued a written warning to
36	the participating provider, the commissioner may levy a penalty in an amount

1	not less than one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) nor more than one thousand
2	five hundred dollars (\$1,500).
3	(ii) Before imposing the penalty, the commissioner
4	shall send a written notice to the participating provider informing the
5	provider of the right to a hearing pursuant to \$\$ 23-61-303 - 23-61-307.
6	(2) "Participating provider" means a "provider" as defined in §
7	23-76-102(10) who, under an express or implied contract with the health
8	maintenance organization or with its contractor or subcontractor, has agreed
9	to provide healthcare services to enrollees with an expectation of receiving
10	payment, other than copayment or deductible, directly or indirectly, from the
11	health maintenance organization.
12	(c) Continuation of Benefits. The commissioner shall require that
13	each health maintenance organization has a plan for handling insolvency that
14	allows for continuation of benefits for the duration of the contract period
15	for which premiums have been paid and continuation of benefits to members who
16	are confined on the date of insolvency in an inpatient facility until their
17	discharge or expiration of benefits. In considering such a plan, the
18	commissioner may require:
19	(1) Insurance to cover the expenses to be paid where date of
20	services precedes the premium paid for it;
21	(2) Provisions in provider contracts that obligate the provider
22	to provide services for the duration of the period after the health
23	maintenance organization's insolvency for which premium payment has been made
24	and until the enrollees' discharge from inpatient facilities;
25	(3) Insolvency reserves;
26	(4) Acceptable letters of credit; and
27	(5) Any other arrangements to assure that benefits are continued
28	as specified in this subsection.
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30	SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 23-87-115(b), concerning the methods of
31	settling claims by an insurer under the Model Act for the Regulation of
32	Credit Life Insurance and Credit Disability Insurance, is amended to read as
33	follows:
34	(b) All claims shall be paid by check or draft of the insurer to the
35	order of, or by electronic funds transfer to an account of, the claimant to
36	whom payment of the claim is due pursuant to the policy provisions, or upon

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     direction of the claimant, to one specified.
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           SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 23-92-101(d), concerning the registration
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     or licensure requirements for a multiple employer trust or multiple employer
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    welfare arrangement, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
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     follows:
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                 (3) The commissioner may by rule allow any type of business
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    organization, whether for-profit or nonprofit, to form an association or
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     group of employers in the multiple employer trust or multiple employer
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    welfare arrangement.
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