

## NY Gov. urged to sign agent independent contractor bill

Insurance Times: October 1, 2002, Vol. XXI No. 20

ALBANY — A New York agent group is urging Gov. George Pataki to sign a bill that would clarify the employment status of licensed agents and brokers.

The bill would amend part of the state's labor and workers compensation laws to exclude agents and brokers from coverage of unemployment and workers compensation provisions.

"Conflicting definitions of independent contractors have, at times, caused some broker/agency arrangements to be at odds with state agencies," Paul Babbitt, chairman of IIAANY's public policy advancement committee, said in a written statement.

The state Labor Department sometimes claims an employee-employer relationship existed between brokers and agencies even though those brokers just placed business through an agency, Babbitt said.

The bill addresses this by allowing members "to be treated no differently than New York's real estate agents," IIAANY board chairman John Costello said.

"With his signature, ... Pataki can give agents and brokers the confidence to know that state officials will be consistent in how they consider the employment status of insurance producers." p