

Revised NH workers comp filing heard

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CONCORD, NH – The National Commission on Compensation Insurance provided a revised workers compensation filing just prior to New Hampshire Insurance department's hearing on Oct.24, 2003.

NCCI is asking Commissioner Roger Sevigny to approve a 0.5 percent increase in current loss costs and a 15.7 percent increase in the assigned risk rates, both with an effective date of Jan.1, 2004.

The revised filing had no changes in the loss costs portion of the original filing, but made a significant change to the assigned risk portion, resulting in a 12.3 percent upward adjustment instead of the 15.7 original recommendation.

The bulk of the discussion at the hearing was on the three issues NCCI identified relating to assigned risks: the Guarantee Fund Assessment; the Profit and Contingency Load, which, up until this filing, has been zero in the Assigned Risk; and the need for increasing the differential in the residual market from 15 percent to 25 percent.

The requested increase in the differential came under the closest scrutiny by DOI officials. NCCI hammered away on the volatility of the assigned risk market, its increasing operating losses. NCCI pointed to the repopulation of the pool, up to roughly 13 percent in 2003 from a low of 5.7 percent in 2000, arguing that the state's pool never decreased to the extent other states' pools did. NCCI also noted that New Hampshire has the second lowest differential among the states it services. □