

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



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FBL Financial Group  
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## OPEN COMMENTARY

Welcome to the March Government Relations bulletin!

The state legislatures in our 15-state footprint are well underway and our advocacy efforts to defeat adverse bills are coming to fruition. For example, in Iowa, we defeated the progression of a significant bill that would prohibit the use of genetic testing in medical files in life insurance. The bill did not pass out of committee before funnel deadline and is now considered dead and will not be eligible for further consideration.

And speaking of Iowa, our Farm Bureau Financial Services advocacy team was out in full force at this year's Iowa Insurance Day on the Hill. The theme this year was "Strengthening Our State's Future." We had the opportunity to join our lobbyists from the Federation of Iowa Insurers and the Iowa Insurance Institute and meet with our elected officials on our priority bills for this session. More information about this event can be found in the "Articles of Interest" section of this bulletin.

New Mexico is the first state within our marketing footprint to conclude its legislative session for 2024. During this legislative session, the governor issued a limited number of messages to the Legislature in an effort to focus the Legislature on her specific priorities. The governor issued only 49 messages to the House and 62 messages to the Senate. Due to the limited number of messages, the total number of bills was also limited to 658 bills, 84 memorials, and 35 resolutions, for a total of 777 total items. Of these, only 107 pieces of legislation were passed by the House and Senate, and only 72 bills were sent to the governor's desk for consideration. Of the total number of items introduced, we were tracking only 18 items, only four of which received a message from the governor, and none of which passed.

Updates on proposed legislative bills are provided under each state as we track their progress. As several thousand bills are proposed annually, we only list those that may impact our companies.

As mentioned before, feedback on how we can better serve you is very much appreciated.

Please feel free to reach out at any time with your comments and suggestions.

**Brett Clausen, Government Relations & Process Improvement Vice President**

# FBFS EIGHT STATE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

## Arizona

Legislative Session is January 8 – April 22, 2024

**February 16 – Last day to hear Senate bills in Senate committees and House bills in the House committees**

**March 22 – Last day to hear Senate bills in Senate and House bills in the House**

**April 16 – 100<sup>th</sup> day of Session**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Newly Filed***

HB 2878 / SB 1530 – Death with Dignity

SB 1340 – Foreign Adversary: Divestment

- Passed Senate committee.

SB 1394 - Taxation: Premium taxes

HB 2715 / SB 1632 – Paid Family Medical Leave

HB 2389 – Vehicle Sales: Prohibition

HB 2713 – TNC: Liability

SB 1680 – Traffic Violations – Photo Radar

- Pass out of committee.

SCR 1001 – Photo Radar Prohibition

SB 1185 – Catalytic Converter: Unlawful Use

SB 1299 – Traffic Control: Right on Red

HB 2443 – Social Credit: Use

SB 1014 – Business: Discrimination Prohibition

HB 2413 – Wildfire Suppression

- Held in committee. Dead.

SB 1439 – Rental Property: Dog Breeds

HB 2609 – Auto Theft Authority: Fee Overpayment

## Previously Filed

SB 1013 – Social and Political Mandate: ESG: Investments

- Passed Senate. To House.

SB 1014 – Anti-ESG; Social Credit Score

- Passed Senate. To House.

HCR 2011 – Social & Political Mandate: Contracts: Firearm Boycotts

HB 2504 – Disability Insurance: Foreign Adversaries

HB 2349 – Paid Family Medical Leave

HB 2457 - Social & Political Mandate: ESG Investments

- Passed House. To Senate.

HB 2576 – Premium Tax Credit: Affordable Housing

HB 2122 – Advertising: Life Insurance

HB 2074 – Wildfire flooding mitigation fund

- Held in committee. Dead for year.

SB 1272 / HB 2729 – Insurance Coverage Requirements: TNC

HB 2638 – Litigation: Financing; Consumer Protection

- Passed out of committee.

HB 2204 – Workers Compensation: Rate Deviation

- Passed House. To Senate.

HB 2566 - Firearm Regulation

HB 2036 – Wildfires; flooding; fire insurance

- Did not pass deadline.

HB 2043 – Statute of Limitations; criminal offenses

SB 1003 – Prohibition; photo radar

HB 2142 – Move Over Law Study Committee

HB 2149 – Watercraft Operations

HB 2269 – Towing Companies: Private Towing: Requirements

SB 1003 – Prohibition: Photo Radar

SB 1025 – DUI: TNC Drivers

HB 2275 – Settlement Agreements: Uninsured

SB 1059 – Judgements: Interest Rates

HB 2117 – Workers Compensation: Presumption

HB 2274 & 2492 – Firefighters and Police Officers: PTSD Coverage

- Passed House. To Senate.

HB 2346 / SB 1437 – Call Centers: Relocation

- Did not make it out of committee.

### **Regulatory Activity**

D 5090 – Insurance Department: Administrative Procedures: Insurance renewal notice timelines

## **Iowa**

### **Legislative Session is January 8 – April 16, 2024**

**February 16 - Last day for Senate bills to be reported from Senate committees and House bills to be reported from House committees.**

**March 15 - Last day for Senate bills to be reported from House committees and House bills to be reported from Senate committees.**

**March 25 - Deadline for bills to pass each chamber (with exceptions).**

**April 16 - 100th day of session (per diem expenses end).**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### **Newly Filed**

SSB 3150 / HF 2348 – TPLF Contracts

- HF did not pass. SSB did not get a hearing. Dead.

HSB 675 / HF 2586 – School Safety

- Passed first funnel.

SB 2360 / SSB 3138 – Risk Classification: Genetic Testing

- Did not pass out of committee before funnel deadline. Considered dead and not eligible for further consideration.

SF 2153 – Commissioner's Authority over private information

SF 2233 - Civic SOL

- Did not get out of committee.

SF 2204 – Ownership of Iowa Farmland

- Passed Senate. To House.

HF 2398 / SF 2121 – Bond/Insurance Policies

HSB 720 / SSB 3141 – Corporate Income Tax: Reductions

### **Previously Filed**

SSB 3002/HSB 535 – Captive Insurance: Premium Tax

SF 2337 / HF 2595 – New revisions to Hands-free Devices

- Passed committee to Senate floor.

SSB 3097 – Driver's Licenses for Minors

HSB 537 / SSB 3083 - County and state mutual associations/reinsurance

HSB 508 / HF 2268 - Product liability action and defenses

HSB 504 - Future phantom damages

- Did not get out of committee.

HF 2265 - Customer renewal notices (30 to 60 Days)

- Passed House. Passed Senate.

HB 2263 – Insurance Department: Penalties

- Passed House. To Senate.

HSB 539 - Risk Classification: Genetic Testing

- Did not make first funnel deadline.

HF 2084 – Car Insurance Minimum Limits

- Did not make first funnel deadline.

HF 2065 – Work Comp for Mental Injuries

HF 2091 – Insurance Verification

- Did not make first funnel deadline.

HF 499 - Car Restraints

SB 1397 – Paid Family Medical Leave

HF 2405 - Insurance Department: Funding: Investments by Life Insurance Companies

- Passed House. To Senate.
- SF 2297 – companion bill.

SF 499 - Damages Owed in Accidents Involving Commercial Motor Vehicles

HF 653 - Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

HF 654/SF 543 - Gun Carrying, Possession and Transport

HF 651 - Dog Breed Restrictions

SF 115 - Denial of Coverage Actions

SF 547 - Hands-free Devices

SF 164 – Car Seats

SSB 1182 - Speed Governing Devices

HF 713 - Catalytic Converters

### **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **Kansas**

**Legislative Session is January 8 – May 3, 2024**

**February 23 - Last day for non-exempt bills to be considered in their house of origin**

**March 28 - Last day for non-exempt bills to be considered in either house**

**April 5 - Last day of session**

**April 29 - May 2 - Veto session**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### **Newly Filed**

HB 2510 - Third Party Litigation Funding

- Failed to pass...but blessed by the Speaker...so may continue.

SB 430 – Workers Compensation Reform

- Passed Committee.

HB 2721 / SB 2550 – Statute of limitations for sexual offenses

SB 423 – Makeup of insurance related governing boards

SB 2707 – UM/UIM Liability limitations

- Failed to pass.

SB 372 - Civil liability for doxing

HB 2607 – Pesticide law amendments

SB 142 – Move Over Bill – Auto

- Passed Senate. To House.

HB 2708 – Eliminates Wrongful Death Caps

- Failed to pass.

SB 512 – Anti-ESG: Insurance Companies

- Failed to pass. Exempt from deadlines.

HB 2810 – NAIC Model: Guaranty Association

HB 2499 – Hands Free

- Passed House. To Senate.

### **Previously Filed**

S 15 – Agents and Brokers: Premiums

- To governor.

S 329 – Premium Tax Credit; Expiration

H 2531 / S 339 - Risk Based Capital: Update

- Passed House. Passed Senate.

H 2533 / S 356 – Insurers: Examinations

- Passed Senate. To House.

H 2544 – Premium Tax Credit

H 2562 – Senior Investor Protection

- Passed House. To Senate.

S 249 – Insurance Commissioner: Election

S 390 – Social and Political Mandate: Public Health

S 398 / H 2715– Department: Company Fee

- Passed Senate. To House.
- Passed House. To Senate.

H 2593 – Insurance: Arbitration

- Failed to pass.

SB 74 - Third Party Litigation Funding Disclosure and Joint Liability

SB 38 - Workers' Compensation Maximum Lifetime Benefits Increase

SB 135 - Medical Cannabis Regulation Act

HB 2183 - Wrongful Death Cap

SB 268 - Boiler Safety Inspector Qualifications

SB 364 – SOL/Reviver

- Exempt from deadlines.

### **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **Minnesota**

**Legislative Session is February 12 – May 20, 2024**

**February 12 – First Day of Session**

**March 22 – Deadline for all bills to be through committee**

**April 19 – Final deadline for all bills to be through finance committee**

**May 20 – Last possible day for session to end**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Newly Filed***

SF 3413 – TNC Bill of Rights

SF 3606 / HF 3836 – Disability Insurance

SF 3874 / HF 3530 – Paid Family Medical Leave: Amend

HF 1930 – Death with Dignity

HF 3506 / SF 3573 – Collateral Source - Joint / Several Liability

HF 3565 – Salt Applicators: Limiting Liability

HF 4084 – Life Insurance: Suicide Clause

HF 3526 – Price Gouging

HF 4034 / SF 4138 – Loss Assessment

\*Minn. Stat. 72A 201 - Body Shop Proposal

\*Minn. Stat. 45B – TPLF

#### ***Previously Filed***

SF 2258 / HF 2245 – Low-Cost Auto Program

- Not likely to pass

HF 2309 / SF 2915 – Consumer Data Privacy Act



## **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **Nebraska**

**Legislative Session is January 3 – April 18, 2024**

**Nebraska is a one house unicameral legislature, and all bills have three stages of debate: General File (first round), Select File (second round) and Final Reading (third round and final vote). If a bill passes on Final Reading and is sent to the Governor, the Governor has 5 days to act (either sign, veto, or let it become law without action).**

**February 29 - Final day of public hearings**

**April 18 - 60th day of session**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Enacted and Signed by Governor***

LB 308 – Genetic Privacy – Effective 3 months after adjournment.

#### ***Newly Filed***

LB 1269 – Self-defense immunity

LB 1345 – Tax on legal services

- Heard in committee. Expected to be part of larger tax package by Governor.

#### ***Previously Filed***

LB 849 - Change provisions relating to insurance rate adjustments

LB 873 - Change provisions relating to real estate closing agents

LB 874 - Changes requirements relating to childcare licensing and childcare facilities

LB 912 - Provide for contracting for reasonable terms for coverage under the Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Insurance Coverage Act

- Withdrawn

LB 1004 - Change motorcycle, moped, and autocycle helmet provisions

- Passed committee.

LB 1017 - Change the schedule of compensation for certain injuries resulting in disability under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act

- Passed committee.

LB 1033 - Provide for enforcement of violations relating to use of handheld wireless communication devices as a primary action

- Did not advance out of committee.

LB 852 - Provide limitations for reimbursement for durable medical equipment

LB 925 - Adopt the Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination Act

- Passed out of committee.

LB 954 - Adopt the Biometric Autonomy Liberty Law

LB 993 - Adopt the Apprenticeship Grant Act

LB 1022 – Tax: Premium Credit

LB 1105 - Name the Branded Certificate of Title Act and provide for the issuance of destroyed-vehicle branded certificates of title

- Now has an amendment to require OEM repair with OEM parts
- Did not advance out of committee.

LB 1132 - Change motor vehicle liability insurance and financial responsibility requirements

- Did not advance out of committee.

LB 1058 - Exclude certain pension and annuity payments from income taxes

LB 1073 - Change provisions relating to onsite audits of the operations of third-party administrators of insurers

- Passed out of committee.

LB 1114 – Tax: Premium tax credit

LB 1139 - Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act

LB 1147 - Provide requirements for separate investment accounts holding assets of index-linked variable annuity contracts

LB 1206 – LTC Tax Incentives: Termination

LB 1213 – Paid Family Medical Leave

LB 1294 – Privacy: Consumer Data Protections

- Heard in committee.

LB 1372 – Taxation: Retaliatory

LB 1400 – Premium Tax Credit: In-Lieu Provision

LB 7 - Hazardous or Toxic Chemical Exposure

LB 25 - Punitive damages

- Passed Committee.

LB 95 - Asbestos Claims Transparency

LB 576 - Public Nuisance

LB 536 - Insurer Investments

LB 730 - Access to Financial Services

LB 743 - Investment Neutrality in Public Funds Act

LB 174 - Statute of Limitations for Sexual Abuse

LB 341 - State and Political Subdivisions Liability

LB 418 - Financial Responsibility Compliance

LB 354 - UM/UIM Provisions

LB 423 - Anti-Stacking

LB 782 - Auto Repair Requirements

LB 5 - Workplace Violence

LB 101 - Workers' Compensation Exemption for Agricultural Operations

LB 272 - Change of Date When Workers' Compensation Begins

LB 380 - Fair Employment Practice Act

LB 443 - Age Limit for Benefits

LB 501 - Firefighter Cancer Presumption

- In committee.

LB 79 - Consumption Tax

LB 579 - Transfer on Death Deeds

### **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **New Mexico**

**Legislative Session ended February 15, 2024**

**Governor Lujan-Grisham has until March 6, 2024, to sign or veto bills that passed in the regular session.**

### **Legislative Bills**

No insurance related priority bills passed.

## **Regulatory Activity**

### **30-Day Notice for Product Discontinuations**

The New Mexico Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) has adopted emergency rules, 13.8.7.1 through 13.8.7.8 NMAC, that will require property and casualty insurers to notify the Property & Casualty Product Filing Bureau of the OSI at least 30 days before discontinuing an insurance product. The OSI will then give notice to current and prospective policyholders by posting notice of the product withdrawal on its website. These emergency rules took effect on February 1, 2024 and will expire on July 30, 2024, unless they are adopted on a permanent basis.

### **Bulletin 2024-003: Deadline to Withdraw, Refile Certain Forms**

The New Mexico Office of Superintendent of Insurance has issued Bulletin 2024-03 to remind residential property insurers of their statutory duty under NM ST s 59A-18-17 to pay for the repair or replacement of residential property at the actual cost without deduction for depreciation and without coverage time limits. The OSI also gives insurers with forms conditioning payment of actual cash value for repairs or replacements done within certain time limits until May 20, 2024 to withdraw and refile new forms without the time limits.

### **Notice: Cyber Security Incident**

Dated February 20, 2024. The New Mexico DOI announces that its EDocket system has been restored and is now fully accessible. Previously, the DOI's EDocket system had been inaccessible to both the public and to DOI due to a September 2023 cyber incident. Entities that have any issues with EDocket access should contact the DOI help desk, as specified.

## **South Dakota**

### **Legislative Session is January 9 – March 25, 2024**

**January 31 – Deadline for Individual Bills to be Introduced**

**February 1 – Deadline for Committee Bills to be Introduced**

**February 21 – Last Day for a Bill to Pass the House of Origin**

**February 29 – Last Day for a Bill to Pass Both Houses**

**March 4 - Last Day of General Session**

**March 25 – Veto Day and Sine Die Adjournment**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Enacted & Signed by Governor***

SB 41 - Modify an administrative procedure for revoking a nonresponsive insurance producer's license

HB 1059 – NAIC Model: Group Capital Calculation

HB 1095 – Operation of fully Autonomous Vehicles – Effective July 1, 2024

HB 1091 - Interstate Insurance Compact

### **Newly Filed**

HB 1247 – Social Political Mandate: ESG: DEI: Political Ideology

### **Previously Filed**

HB 1023 – Immunity Liability

- Passed House. To Senate.

SB 72 – Premium Tax Credits

- Passed Senate. Passed House. To Governor.

HB 1126 – Life and Annuities: Alternative Policy Delivery

- Passed House. Passed Senate. To Governor.

HB 1167 – Social and Political Mandate: Public Health

- Withdrawn

HB 1183 – TPA Audits: Virtual

- Passed House. Passed Senate. To Governor.

HB 1158 – ALI: Secondary Sources

- Passed House. To Senate.

SB 114 – Workers Compensation: Presumption

- Bill died.

SB 145 - Workers Compensation: Reporting Period

- Bill died.

HB 1174 – Civil Gun Liability Act

- Passed House. To Senate.

HB 1183 – TPA Audits

- Passed House. To Senate.

SB 166 – Drone Provisions

- Bill withdrawn.

SB 169 – Drone Provisions

- Passed Senate. Unassigned in House.

HB 1078 – Seat Belt

- Withdrawn

HB 1107 – Prohibit Electronic Devices

- Failed

SB 62 – Requirements After Accident

- Failed

### **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **Utah**

**Legislative Session is January 16 – March 1, 2024**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### **Newly Filed**

HB 351 – Driving by Minors Amendments

HB 449 – Pedestrian Safety and Facilities Act Modifications

HB 437 – Fire Amendments

- Passed House.

SB 131 – Information Technology Act Amendments

HB 196 – Sexual Abuse Amendments

HB 406 – Firearms Financial Transaction Amendments

- Passed House. To Senate.

HB 426 – Firearms Amendments

HB 435 – Truth in Advertising Amendments

HB 443 – Utah Consumer Sales Practices Act Amendments

SB 193 – Arbitration Amendments

- Pass Senate.

HJR 15 – SOL/Reviver

- Failed in committee.

HB 537 – Counterfeit Airbag Amendments

SB 215 – Motor Vehicle Consumer Data Protection

SB 237 – Towing Modifications

HB 342 – Electronic Information Privacy Amendments

HB 385 – Social Media Usage Amendments

SB 104 – Childrens Device Protection Act

- Passed Senate.

SB 232 – Minor Data Protection Amendments

SB 202 – Regulations for Legal Services

- Passed Senate.

### **Previously Filed**

HB 179 – Unfair Claims Practices: Delayed Payment

SB 98 – Cybersecurity: Data Breach Notification

- Passed Senate. Passed House.

HB 144 – Vehicle Accident Liability Amendments

HB 204 – Towing Requirements

HB 231 - Motor Vehicle Insurance Modifications

- Passed House.

HB 274 – Underinsured Motorist Coverage

- Failed in committee.

SB 53 - Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Amendments

HB 88 – Landowner Liability Amendments

HB 268 – Punitive Damages Amend

HB 304 – Dram Shop Amendments

- Rules chair did not assign to committee. Likely dead.

SB 62 – Dog Related Liability Amendments

- Bill failed.

SB 31 – DOI Omnibus – Insurance Amendments

- Passed Senate.

SB 149 – Artificial Intelligence Act

- Passed Senate. Passed House.

## **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

# **FBFS AFFILIATED STATE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

## **Colorado**

**Legislative Session is January 10 – May 8, 2024**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Newly Filed***

S 136 – Annuities: Individual Fiduciary Duty Life Insurance

HB 1151 – Deceptive Pricing Methods

H 1321 – Holding Companies: Group Capital Calculation Model Act and Credit for Reinsurance Model Acts

#### ***Previously Filed***

HB 1119 - Taxation: Premium Taxes

## **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **Idaho**

**Legislative Session is January 8 – March 29, 2024**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Newly Filed***

H 503 – Life Insurance Lapse Notices

H 568 – Artificial Intelligence

#### ***Previously Filed***

## **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.



## Oklahoma

Legislative Session is February 5 – May 31, 2024

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Newly Filed***

S 1337 – Security Breach

H 3453 / H 3577 - Artificial Intelligence

- Passed House.

H 3190 – LTC: Utilization review

H 1505 / 1506 / 1522 – Insurance Act

H 1617 – Investments: ESG

H 3647 – Biometric Data Privacy Act

H 3828 – Algorithmic Accountability: AI

S 468 – Electronic Estate Planning

- Passed Senate. To House.

#### ***Previously Filed***

S 1534 – Amend Unclaimed Property Act

- Passed Senate. To House.

S 1813 – Insurance Claims

H 3293 / H 3835 – Artificial Intelligence

H 4155 – Social and Political Mandate: ESG

### **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## Wisconsin

Legislative Session is January 16 – March 14, 2024

### **Legislative Bills**

#### ***Newly Filed***

A 1068 / S 1010 - Algorithmic Accountability / AI

- A 1068 Passed Assembly. To Senate

S 1064 – Paid Leave

S 1072 – Algorithmic Accountability / AI

### **Previously Filed**

SB 70 – Insurance Fraud

S 432 – Insurance Omnibus Bill

A 466 / S 642 – Privacy: Consumer Data Protections

S 628 / A 578 – Financial Exploitation: Vulnerable Adult

- Passed Senate. Passed Assembly.

A 781 / S 739 – Death with Dignity

A 1018 / S 908 – Annuities: Group

### **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **Wyoming**

**Legislative Session: February 12 – March 8, 2024**

**February 16 – Last day for bill introductions**

**February 21 – Last day for bills to move out of committee**

### **Legislative Bills**

#### **Newly Filed**

S 5 – Risk Classification: Organ Transplant Protection

- Passed Senate. To House.

S 105 – Political and Social Mandate: Firearms Financial Privacy Act

- Passed Senate. To House.

H 14 – Long Term Care: Prior Authorization

- Passed House. Passed Senate.

H 163 – Data Privacy: Government Entities

S 130 – Social and Political Mandate: DEI

- Passed Senate. To House.

H 174 - Paid Family and Medical Leave

## *Previously Filed*

H 59 – Covid-19

## **Regulatory Activity**

No new activity.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

March 14 – 18, 2024 – NAIC Spring National Meeting – Phoenix, AZ

## **ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **Farm Bureau Financial Services Participates in Iowa's Insurance Day on the Hill**



Our Farm Bureau Financial Services advocacy team was out in full force at this year's Iowa Insurance Day on the Hill. The theme this year was "Strengthening Our State's Future." We had the opportunity to join our lobbyists from the Federation of Iowa Insurers and the Iowa Insurance Institute and meet with our elected officials on our priority bills for this session.



The 2024 Iowa Advocacy Team: Jon Behrens, Julayne Sankot, Kara Larson, Shelby Grinnell, Lauren Clark, and Brett Clausen.



Pictured above is Kara Larson with other industry advocates from the Federation of Iowa Insurers meeting with Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Konfrst.

## Minneapolis Looking at Cameras To Catch Speeders, Red-Light Runners

By Tim Harlow, Star Tribune, January 31, 2024

The earliest a traffic safety camera pilot program could start is summer 2025, and it requires a change in state law. Minneapolis rolled out a system known as PhotoCop in 2005, but it didn't last long. The state Supreme Court ruled the program invalid because it conflicted with state law.

Speeding is a problem in Minneapolis — worse here than in many other parts of the country, contended Ethan Fawley, who coordinates the city's Vision Zero plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries within the next three years.

Fawley pointed to data showing that in Minneapolis between 2017 and 2021, speeding was the leading cause of crashes resulting in a serious injury or death. Drivers running red lights was not far behind.

That's why the city is asking the Legislature to make a change in state law to allow municipalities to use cameras to record the traffic infractions and mail a citation to the owner of the vehicle.

This would be Minneapolis' second try at using cameras to nab drivers running red lights. The city rolled out a system known as PhotoCop in 2005, but it didn't last long. The state Supreme Court ruled the program invalid because it conflicted with state law and forced vehicle owners who were cited to prove they were not the ones driving.

Still, Fawley argued during an online open house in January, "People deserve to be safe getting around to the community. Findings are consistent that it provides benefits for reducing deaths, injuries, crashes and speeds."

The push for the pilot began in 2021 but is taking on a bit more urgency as more than 20 people have died in traffic crashes in each of the past three years. In 2018, the city had just nine traffic fatalities.

Rep. Samantha Sencer-Mura, D-Minneapolis, plans to introduce a bill that would permit cameras at high-crash intersections. According to the bill, cameras would snap pictures of the back license plates of vehicles going 10 mph over the speed limit and generate a ticket. Citations come with a warning on the first offense and a \$40 fine for a second. The vehicle owner could opt to take a traffic safety class in lieu of paying the fine one time.

"Every few blocks, you will see some kind of memorial to a person who had died on that street," Sencer-Mura said. "This does support safety on the street."

Another provision in Sencer-Mura's bill would require cities to use the cameras as part of a broader traffic safety plan. Minneapolis previously identified the camera pilot in a draft of its Vision Zero Action Plan as one of 17 strategies and 70 actions to reduce traffic deaths and injuries by 2027. The earliest a pilot program could be put in place would be summer 2025, if the Legislature were to amend the law this year.

Cameras, Fawley said, are "an important part of the overall mix we are pursuing for traffic safety."

Next year, the city plans to use a \$20 million federal Safe Streets for All grant to begin upgrading traffic lights and installing features such as bikeways separated from vehicles, center median refuge islands and reducing the number of travel lanes on some roads.

Despite the fate of PhotoCop, Fawley thinks the city can be successful this time.

"We have a lot we can learn from other states and communities that have done this," he said. "We have a lot of information to build on. This time we will work to support legislative change to ensure it is legal."

At least 19 states and the District of Columbia use cameras for some sort of automated traffic enforcement, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Minneapolis' pilot would begin with about 10 cameras and focus on speeding but could be expanded in the future to include red-light runners.

Vehicle owners who are ticketed would not have the offense included on their driving record, and the tickets could not be used to revoke a driver's license or used by police to make an arrest.

The bottom line, Fawley said: "We want people to slow down. We don't want them to get a ticket."

## **Automatic IRA Act of 2024**

February 7, 2024

Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA), a House Ways and Means Committee member, took one more step toward ensuring that more Americans can retire securely by introducing the Automatic IRA Act of 2024.

"Congressman Neal's dedication to enhancing Financial Security for All is commendable," said Marc Cadin, CEO of Finseca. "The American people already face a \$7 trillion gap in retirement savings, and according to estimates by LIMRA, we're also staring down a \$12 trillion protection gap. With the insolvency of Social Security looming too, we're on the brink of a financial crisis, and the Automatic IRA Act of 2024 promises to boost retirement savings for millions, especially benefiting young and low-income workers lacking access to workplace savings. Furthermore, this expands on the efforts of Secure 2.0 and is exactly the kind of leadership we need to help Americans reach their goal of becoming more financially secure."

The Automatic IRA Act of 2024 proposes that employers with over ten employees lacking a retirement plan must automatically enroll their employees in IRAs (automatic IRAs) or other similar contribution plans such as 401(k)s. This initiative aims to empower more Americans to address retirement planning challenges by facilitating workplace savings.

## **NAMIC – EV Implications Study**

Tony Cotto, Director of Auto and Underwriting Policy at NAMIC

## SPARKS OF INNOVATION OR SPUTTERS OF CONCERN?

The buzziest of buzzwords in conversations around vehicles today is undoubtedly “electrification.” While there is plenty to buzz about, it may surprise casual observers to learn that as of this writing, fewer than 1 percent of vehicles on U.S. roads are electric vehicles (EVs). Interested stakeholders and government agencies continue to push a future when EVs replace traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) powered cars and trucks, offering generous government subsidies, incentives, and tax credits while advocating eventual mandates – and yet, of the nearly 20 million cars sold nationwide in 2022, only approximately 800,000 were EVs. While that number is growing quickly and likely eclipsed 1 million for the first time in 2023 as manufacturers continue to introduce new models and options with promises of massive take-up over the remainder of the decade, it will still be less than 5 percent of all cars sold all year.

While consumers have not embraced these vehicles at nearly the scale predicted by some EV industry advocates, amazing technological advancements and expanding options from manufacturers are all but ensuring that EVs will be an increasingly significant part of the future of the U.S. vehicle fleet. As it has through the history of vehicles and driving, the property/ casualty insurance industry will play an important role in identifying, analyzing, qualifying, and quantifying the different risks posed by such vehicles and their features. In doing that, it will be crucial to separate fact from fiction where EVs are concerned so that policymakers and policyholders have a more realistic understanding of these vehicles, including the opportunities and risks they create, as well as the potential safety impact they pose for their owners, passengers, and other road users. Insurers should not be limited in their ability to treat ICE and EV models differently; it is critical to preserve the freedom to underwrite and rate consistent with the risks the vehicles pose.

This NAMIC issue analysis aims to explain the basics of EV operation, highlight considerations for insurers as they identify and price EV risks, and outline some of the realities and potential challenges of further electrification for carriers and consumers. Insurers will play a role in the partial fleet transition already underway, embracing the upside and identifying the risks of EVs, always keeping policyholder interests front and center.

The full report can be found here:

<https://fblfinancial.sharepoint.com/sites/mtm/cao/GA/Hot%20Topics/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

## Climate Change and Insurance

APCIA released an updated version of its Climate Change and Insurance white paper, which is intended as an APCIA members-only resource. The white paper captures background on climate change risks, legal and regulatory activity, theories of liability, potential enterprise and coverage exposures, and property and casualty coverage products that may be impacted. This updated version of the white paper includes legal and regulatory developments since the paper was first released in October 2022.

Climate change has the potential to significantly impact insurers. Over the past two decades, several plaintiff groups have filed lawsuits seeking damages from both large energy companies and consumers of fossil fuels. Insurers are likely to see increased claim activity and associated litigation costs as the legal environment continues to evolve in response to disputes associated

with climate change. Also, insurers are seeing increased regulatory scrutiny and pressure related to their own activities.

In the white paper, APCA sought to present a comprehensive yet accessible examination of the many climate change risks to help insurers better understand potential challenges. APCA will continue to update the paper periodically to reflect the latest climate-related trends affecting the industry and we welcome your suggestions for future updates.

Click here to access the full report:

<https://fbfinancial.sharepoint.com/sites/mtm/cao/GA/Hot%20Topics/Forms/AllItems.aspx>  
<https://fbfinancial.sharepoint.com/sites/mtm/cao/GA/Hot%20Topics/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

## Iowa Economic Development: Benefits of Locating Insurance in Iowa

The Iowa Economic Development Authority released a two-page report on the benefits to locating Insurance and InsurTech operations in Iowa. Did you know Iowa:

- Is ranked as one of the top states for insurance with nearly 11% of Iowa's gross domestic product from insurance
- Has over 62,000 insurance industry professionals
- Has the lowest insurance premium tax in the country
- Is ranked #1 in cost of living
- Has State incentives for job growth and capital investment

And more...

The full report can be found here:

<https://fbfinancial.sharepoint.com/sites/mtm/cao/GA/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>  
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## Federation of Iowa Insurers Releases Insurance Industry Impact Study

The Federation of Iowa Insurers released the most recent insurance industry study emphasizing an environment where innovation, diversification and protection are encouraged, Iowa is a place where the insurance industry and its employees can thrive.

Highlights from this study include:

- The insurance industry accounts for 11% of the state's GDP, the highest of any state in the nation
- The insurance industry accounts for 2.9% of state employment
- It is estimated that the insurance industry spending generated a total impact of \$32.3 billion for 2022
- Iowa has the highest share of its private workforce employed in the insurance industry in the nation
- The insurance industry spending generated an estimated \$2 billion in state and local tax collections for 2021 and 2022 combined

Review the complete report here:

<https://fbfinancial.sharepoint.com/sites/mtm/cao/GA/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>  
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***“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that counts. It’s the life in your years.”***  
– Abraham Lincoln