

HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEE
Testimony of John C. Peterson, Asurion
Support of House Bill 2618
February 15, 2012

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee. My name is John Peterson. I'm pleased to appear today on behalf of Asurion Insurance Company in support of House Bill 2618. Asurion is the leading provider of handset protection programs in the country and has joined forces with leading wireless carriers throughout the world to bring the portable electronics insurance to customers. Asurion's North American headquarters is located in Kansas City. The company employs over 150 people at that facility.

Last year your Committee was kind enough to work and recommend favorably legislation establishing the Portable Electronics Insurance Act. Since that time some 24 other states have joined in enactment of similar legislation. Most all remaining states have some form of the legislation pending during this year.

After the bill was signed into law we discovered a printing glitch where one clause was not stricken when the House Committee amendments were adopted. Since the Senate went ahead and concurred in the good work of the House, that extra clause became part of the statute. That is taken care of on page 2 by the deletion of those words on line 15 and 16.

Also as this legislation has been enacted in other states, ideas and approaches have evolved that make the legislation more business friendly and less difficult from a compliance and paperwork standpoint, so we have included a couple of those changes. You will note on the first page that instead of a licensee filing every three months with the Department a list of all locations where they are selling insurance, the licensee would maintain that list and would provide it to the Insurance Department on their request.

Changes on page 4 allow notices to be sent by an entity appointed by the insurer and clarifies that refunds of premium can be in the form of a credit, so long as there exists a balance in which to apply the credit.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.