

House Judiciary Committee

HB 922: State Government – Public Welfare Actions – Determinations and Settlements

UNFAVORABLE | February 19, 2024

Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies¹ (NAMIC) thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement to express our opposition to House Bill 922 and request an unfavorable report.

NAMIC consists of nearly 1,500 member companies, including seven of the top 10 property/casualty insurers in the United States. The association supports local and regional mutual insurance companies on main streets across America as well as many of the country's largest national insurers.

Senate Bill 680 establishes an overly broad definition of a public welfare claim where anything that is considered consumer related and intended to protect the welfare or safety of others could be considered. This would open potential liability to anyone and creates the potential for what can be alleged is unlimited and therefore can go after anyone for payment of claims of any type. This vague and broad structure is ripe for abuse and increases the likelihood of forced settlements. This bill will create excessive, vexatious, and unintended costly non-meritorious litigation.

For these reasons, NAMIC is opposed to House Bill 922 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report of the bill.

Sincerely,



Matt Overturf, NAMIC Regional Vice President
Ohio Valley/Mid-Atlantic Region

¹ NAMIC member companies write \$357 billion in annual premiums and represent 69 percent of homeowners, 56 percent of automobile, and 31 percent of the business insurance markets. Through its advocacy programs NAMIC promotes public policy solutions that benefit member companies and the policyholders they serve and fosters greater understanding and recognition of the unique alignment of interests between management and policyholders of mutual companies.