



## Summary of the Ohio Certificates of Insurance Act

**Defines the Statutory Purpose of a Certificate of Insurance** – The law provides for the creation of a certificate of insurance, a document that is prepared or issued by an insurer or a licensed insurance agent to verify the existence of property and casualty coverage, and regulates the content, preparation, and issuance of such certificates.

**Clarifies the Effect of a Certificate of Insurance** – The law states that a certificate of insurance is not a policy of insurance and cannot be used to confer to any person new or additional rights beyond what the referenced policy of insurance expressly provides.

**Regulation of Certificates of Insurance** – A certificate of insurance shall not include language that does any of the following:

- (1) Is unfair, misleading, or deceptive or that violates public policy;
- (2) Violates any law or any rule adopted by the Superintendent of Insurance.
- (3) Guarantees that the policy of insurance referenced in the certificate complies with the requirements for a policy of property or casualty insurance under Title XXXIX of the Revised Code. The inclusion of a contract number or policy description in a certificate of insurance is not proof of such a guarantee.

**Defines Illegal Conduct by Agent and Certificate Requestor** – No person shall do either of the following:

(A) Prepare, issue, request, or require a certificate of insurance that contains any false or misleading information concerning the policy of insurance referenced in the certificate of insurance;

(B) Prepare, issue, request, or require a certificate of insurance that affirmatively or negatively alters, amends, or extends the coverage provided by the policy of insurance referenced in the certificate of insurance.

**Notice of cancellation or nonrenewal** – The law also specifies that a certificate holder is entitled to notice of cancellation or nonrenewal concerning a policy of insurance only if the certificate holder is named within the policy and the policy requires notice to the holder.

**Superintendent's Investigatory Authority** – The law authorizes the Superintendent to investigate the activities of any person the Superintendent reasonably believes has engaged in or is engaging in an act or practice prohibited under this law.

**Penalties** – The law allows the Superintendent of Insurance to (1) require a person who violates any requirement related to certificates of insurance to cease and desist from the actions constituting the violation, (2) assess a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per violation, or (3) do both.