



committees of the Senate and House of Representatives (Record, Exhibit 6) and was assigned accordingly (Record, Exhibit 7).

## **II. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMITTED COMMENTS**

Interested persons were given the opportunity to participate in the proposed rulemaking by submitting their written comments by August 30, 2012, and by making oral comments at the public hearing held September 5, 2012. No written comments were offered. Tammy Holmes, Director of the Agents Licensing Division of this office, and Jerry Duke, a representative of an industry association (Professional Insurance Agents), spoke.

According to Ms. Holmes, the proposed regulatory actions are necessary to implement the limited group health counselor license. Mr. Duke addressed the issue of sub-agent licensee supervision. His comments were not directly related to the immediate proposed regulatory changes but will be appropriately addressed outside of the context of this order.

## **III. DECISION**

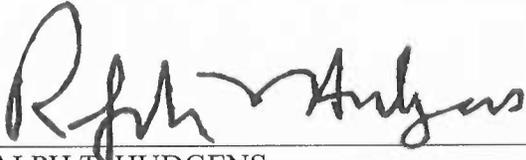
The health insurance marketplace is undergoing changes resulting from the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable care Act. The advent of the limited group health counselor license is necessary to help ensure that Georgia consumers will continue to have access to qualified individuals who can guide them through the health insurance process.

**WHEREAS**, this office did not receive any comments in opposition to the proposed regulatory changes, and **WHEREAS** this office agrees with Ms. Holmes' comments in support of the need for such changes, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the proposed changes to the regulations within Chapter 120-2-3 entitled "Regulations Regarding Agents, Subagents,

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Counselors, Adjusters, Surplus Lines Brokers and Agencies,” a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part by reference, are **HEREBY ADOPTED**.

Given under my Hand and Seal this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012.



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RALPH T. HUDGENS  
INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER  
STATE OF GEORGIA