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**NCOIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES 2004 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

            Hallandale Beach, Florida,  January 7, 2004 ─ Florida State Sen. Steven A. Geller, recently elected President of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), today named several leading state lawmakers as chair of key NCOIL committees and subcommittees in 2004.

            “NCOIL legislators and their constituents are most fortunate that several of the nation’s top state legislators have agreed to lead major NCOIL committees and subcommittees. Each chair is an important member of the Committee responsible for insurance-business legislation in his or her legislative house.  I look forward to working with them on such critical issues as modernization of rate and form regulation, market conduct reform, international reinsurance collateral, and natural disaster insurance,” the Florida lawmaker said.

            Sen. Geller said the appointees will serve until the end of his term as NCOIL President in November 2004.  He said the appointments are as follows:

            Rep. Mark Young, chair of the Commerce Committee, Vermont House of Representatives, will chair the NCOIL International Insurance Issues Committee.

            Rep. George Keiser, chair of the Industry Business and Labor Committee, North Dakota House of Representatives, will chair the NCOIL Property-Casualty Insurance Committee.

            Sen. James Seward, chair of the Standing Committee on Insurance, New York Senate, will chair the NCOIL State-Federal Relations Committee.

            Sen. Carroll Leavell, a member of the Corporation and Transportation Committee, New Mexico Senate, will chair the NCOIL Workers’ Compensation Insurance Committee.

            Rep. Greg Davids, chair of the Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Committee, Minnesota House of Representatives, will chair the NCOIL Life Insurance Committee.

            Sen. Geller also announced that Rep. Robert Damron, a member of the Committee on Banking and Insurance, Kentucky House of Representatives, will chair the Financial Services Subcommittee of the State-Federal Relations Committee; that Rep.  Mark Young, chair of the Commerce Committee, Vermont House of Representatives, will chair the Life Settlements Subcommittee of the Life Insurance Committee; and that Assem. Nancy Calhoun, member of the Insurance Committee, New York State Assembly, will chair the Task Force on Terrorism of the Executive Committee.

                                                                                                                                                            NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose primary public policy concern is insurance and insurance regulation.  For more information, please contact NCOIL at (518) 449-3210.

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