

**Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty's speech, Amelia Island, January 31, 2013**

While the Florida legislature considers these options, another area of legislative focus for the Office is to help Florida's leadership establish policy direction relative to the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act also known as (PPACA)**.

The Office has been analyzing the issues presented by PPACA and the potential conflicts between federal and state law, and the impact this will have on the Florida marketplace.

The Office's main objectives during this process are to maintain a stable marketplace, promote competition, ensure consumer protections and expedite company product approvals.

The Office has been diligently engaged with industry, legislative staff and our principals on potential options for the state to move forward.

These options include short term exemptions to speed products to market and long term solutions that could include the expansion of current Florida Law to incorporate elements of PPACA.

In any event, our state will have to address direct conflicts that will affect the Office's review of form and rate filings.

Currently the Office will be required to deny filings that comply with federal law however do not comply with the requirements of Florida Law.

One of the best examples of these conflicts pertains to rate filings.

Current Florida Law requires an age rating ratio that averages around 7 to 1; however this conflicts with federal law that restricts the age rating ratio to 3 to 1.

As we move along in this process, the Office looks forward to working with all interested parties in order to maintain market stability and competition.