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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Surplus Lines Insurance Market Modernizations Pass Committee *Free-market Changes Backed by Florida Surplus Lines Insurance Association*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Tuesday, March 5, 2019) – On the opening day of session, the Florida Legislature is reviewing needed modernizations to Florida’s surplus lines regulatory framework. Rep. Colleen Burton, R-Lakeland, aims to make important updates through House Bill 387 on Nonadmitted Insurance Markets – the bill passed its second committee stop today in the House Commerce Committee. HB 387 will modernize the marketplace in a way that helps the surplus lines industry better support and insure Florida’s risk-takers, meaning large and small business owners across Florida.

Florida Surplus Lines Association (FSLA) board member Harvey Sheldon, CPCU, Director of Advanced E&S of Florida, Inc. in Hollywood, Florida, shared the following statement on the bill’s committee passage:

“Surplus lines insurance is necessary to promote growth and allow Floridians to enjoy and benefit from enterprises that often come with higher risks: think tourism and entertainment, construction, research and innovation and job creation.

“Yet the surplus lines insurance industry still operates under some outdated regulations. There are a myriad of state-mandated reporting requirements, long ago rendered obsolete by new electronic filings.

“This bill modernizes the marketplace for Florida’s risk-takers. We thank lawmakers for acting on important updates to increase efficiency and competition in the private market, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens.”

House Bill 387:

- Removes the prescriptive statutory capped fee and replaces the cap with a requirement that the fee be reasonable. The fee must be separately stated before policy purchase so that the retail agent and the customer can see it clearly and use that information to shop and find the most competitive terms to address their clients' unique risks.
- Removes an outdated regulatory paperwork requirement that technology replaced and,
- Ensures that Florida's private flood market will continue to offer additional options for the millions of households without this important coverage.

About FSLA:

The Florida Surplus Lines Association (FSLA) is an association representing excess and surplus lines agency member firms and associate members in Florida. Over the past 50 years, FSLA has promoted the regulatory and legislative interests of FSLA members and the Florida surplus lines industry, with a focus on supporting opportunities and insuring risks throughout Florida. The Florida Surplus Lines Association (FSLA) serves as a voice and a resource for its members and is consistently recognized for being one of the most active in the nation, ranking among the top three surplus lines associations in the country. Learn more at www.myFSLA.com.

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