



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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## ***MEMORANDUM***

**TO:** Commission Members

**FROM:** Lynnise Roehrich-Patrick  
Executive Director

**DATE:** 30 January 2014

**SUBJECT:** Insurance as an Alternative to Surety Bonds for Public Officials—Final Report  
for Approval

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The attached report prepared in response to Senate Bill 624, sent to the Commission to study by the Senate State and Local Government Committee, is submitted for your approval. The bill proposed changing current law to allow insurance as an alternative to individual surety bonds.

The report reflects the Commission's consensus that Senate Bill 624 is not needed, at least not in its current form. At the December meeting, the Commission expressed interest in allowing a form of coverage that was less expensive than individual surety bonds and easier to obtain while providing the same coverage and safeguards, including personal liability on the part of public officials. Included in the report is sample language for an amendment that would allow local governments to buy blanket surety bonds to meet all requirements for individual surety bonds for public officials.

In response to member feedback, the final version of the report includes additional examples of counties in Georgia using blanket surety bonds.