

1914, ch. 489.

154A. No mutual insurance association or company hereafter incorporated under the provisions of this Article, for the purpose of insuring employers against loss or damage resulting from accident to or injury suffered by an employee or other person and for which the employer or person insured is liable, or the liability of the employer to pay compensation to his employees or for insuring payment of the compensation to injured employees or their dependents under any Workmen's Compensation Law, or against loss or damage caused by a truck, wagon or other vehicle propelled by steam, gas, gasoline, electric, mechanical or other power or drawn by horses or mules used in trade or manufacture and owned by any such employer or person to any other person or to the property of another for which loss or damage the employer or person insured is liable, or for insuring sick, old age, non-employment or other benefits to such employees, shall begin or transact any such business of insurance unless and until at least twenty employers, employing not less than two thousand employees, have become members of such mutual insurance association and applied for and agreed to take insurance therein, covering the liability of such employers to their employees for accidents to or injuries suffered by such employees and assuring payment of compensation to their employees or the dependents of their employees for such injuries, nor until such facts have been certified under oath to the State Insurance Commissioner by at least three of the persons signing the certificate of incorporation of such association and a license authorizing such association to begin writing the insurance specified in this section has been issued by the State Insurance Commissioner. Before granting any such license it shall be the duty of the State Insurance Commissioner to ascertain to his satisfaction that the membership list of the association is genuine, and that every member thereof will take the policies as agreed by him within thirty days of the granting of the license to such association to issue policies. If at any time the number of members falls below twenty or the number of employees who are employed by the members of any such association falls below two thousand, no more policies shall be issued by such association until other employers have made *bona fide* applications for insurance therein, who, together with the existing members, amount to not less than twenty employers who employ not less than two thousand employees, and in the event that such applications for insurance shall not be obtained within a reasonable time, to be fixed by the State Insurance Commissioner, said Insurance Commissioner may take the proceedings against such association under and as provided in sub-Section or division Seventh of Section 178 of this Article (Bagby's Code).

The members of any such mutual insurance association shall be policy-holders therein or contributors to the fund, and when any member ceases to be a policy-holder or contributor to the fund he shall cease, at the same time, to be a member of such association. A corporation, partnership, association or joint stock company may become a member of such