

or upon the request of five or more of the stockholders, creditors, policyholders, or persons pecuniarily interested therein, who shall make affidavit of their belief, with specifications of reason thereof, showing a prima facie case that such company is in an unsound condition. Whenever the Insurance Commissioner may have reason to doubt the solvency or the correctness of the statement of any foreign company which may have been licensed to do business in this State, or which may be applying for said license, he shall communicate such doubts, and the reasons therefor, to the Insurance Commissioner, or other officer charged with the supervision of insurance corporations of the State in which said company is located, and if he is not satisfied from the information obtained from such Insurance Commissioner or other officer, or from the officers of the company, that the condition of the company is such as to warrant him in permitting it to transact business in this State under the provisions of this Article, he shall notify such company that it will be necessary for him to have its affairs examined. Whenever an examination of any insurance company doing business in this State shall be determined upon under the provisions of this Article, the examiner of the insurance department and such other person or persons who shall be appointed by the Insurance Commissioner for that purpose shall visit such company at its principal office and make a thorough examination into its affairs; and if such company shall refuse to permit such examination, or shall refuse access to all its books and papers, or shall in any way prevent or obstruct a thorough examination into its affairs, he shall not grant a license to such company, or if a license shall already have been granted, he shall at once revoke it and publish the fact of such revocation in one daily newspaper published in the City of Baltimore. The Insurance Commissioner shall be paid by the company whose affairs are examined, the traveling and other necessary expenses incurred in any such examination, and in addition thereto, a per diem fee to be fixed by the Commissioner. Whenever the necessity may appear, the Insurance Commissioner is authorized to employ special examiners or assistants on a per diem basis, and to charge the company whose affairs are examined for their traveling and other necessary expenses, including the per diem fee to be fixed by the Commissioner. The Insurance Commissioner shall collect all such fees and expenses, and pay the same to the State Treasurer, and he shall draw, on proper orders, from the State Treasury, the amounts necessary for the salaries and expenses of his office, and for the payment of per diem fees, but no official or employee of the department, receiving a regular salary shall be paid or receive any additional compensation or per diem fees, except to the extent permitted