

**314. Certificate of Compliance; Certified Copy as Evidence.**

The Commissioner may make such examination and require such further information as he deems advisable. Upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that the society has complied with all the provisions of law, he shall issue to the society a certificate to that effect and that the society is authorized to transact business pursuant to the provisions of this subtitle. The certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the existence of the society at the date of such certificate. The Commissioner shall cause a record of such certificate to be made. A certified copy of such record may be given in evidence with like effect as the original certificate.

**315. Constitution and Laws; General Powers.**

(a) Every society shall have the power to adopt a constitution and laws for the government of the society, the admission of its members, the management of its affairs and the fixing and readjusting of the rates of its members from time to time. It shall have the power to change, alter, add to or amend such constitution and laws.

(b) A society shall have such other powers as are necessary and incidental to carrying into effect the objects and purposes of the society.

**316. Corporate Powers Retained.**

Any incorporated society authorized to transact business in this State at the time this subtitle becomes effective may thereafter exercise all the rights, powers and privileges prescribed in this subtitle and in its charter or articles of incorporation as far as consistent with this subtitle. A domestic society shall not be required to reincorporate.

**317. Existing Voluntary Associations—May Incorporate.**

(a) After one year from the effective date of this subtitle, no unincorporated or voluntary association shall be permitted to transact business in this State as a fraternal benefit society.

(b) Any domestic voluntary association now authorized to transact business in this State may incorporate and shall receive from the Commissioner a permanent certificate of incorporation as a fraternal benefit society when:

(1) It has completed its conversion to an incorporated society not later than one year from the effective date of this subtitle;

(2) It has filed its articles of incorporation and has satisfied the other requirements described in sections 310 through 314; and

(3) The Commissioner has made such examination and procured whatever additional information he deems advisable.

(c) Every voluntary association so incorporated shall incur the obligations and enjoy the benefits thereof the same as though originally incorporated, and such corporation shall be deemed a continuation of the original voluntary association. The officers thereof shall serve through their respective terms as provided in its original articles of association, but their successors shall be elected and serve