New York State Department of Financial Services
Premium Rate Approval – Decision Summary

Insurer:	**Health Republic Insurance of New York**
Line of Business:	Small Group HMO
Filing Type:	4308(c) prior approval
Effective Date:	1/1/2015
Affected Members:	43,043 (as of 5/31/2014)
On/Off NY State of Health:	On and Off
Annual Premium:	$251.4 million
SERFF Tracking Numbers:	PERR-129604048 PERR-129604018

Summary:

Requested	Approved	Reduction
5.89%	3.36%	-2.53%

The analysis included the following "requested" versus "approved" assumptions for the various parts of the application:

	Requested	Approved
1. Annual Claims Trend Rate	5.00%	5.00%
2. Administrative Expense Ratio	18.97%	17.01%
3. Profit Objective (% of premium, pre-tax)	0.99%	0.99%
4. Medical Loss Ratio (MLR)	80.04%	82.00%

Analysis:

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), all policies in the small group market, both on and off the New York State of Health (NYSOH), must be rated as a single risk pool, which was required in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) rate application. DFS reviewed the material that Health Republic submitted with the rate application, which included the projected trend assumptions, administrative expense assumptions, projected premiums and claims, profit objectives, and the development of the needed rate change, as well as comparisons to similar historical data in each of these areas. DFS considered the insurer's overall solvency and the ability of the insurer to meet its obligations after DFS's decision. In addition, DFS took into account comments on the rate application received from consumers, consumer groups and policyholders.

2014 is the first year that many of the reforms of the ACA have been in place and the first year that the NYSOH Individual and Small Group Marketplaces have been operational. These reforms have brought significant changes to the health

insurance market in New York and have increased enrollment dramatically. There is, however, limited claims data and information regarding enrollee health status. Consequently, many insurers and industry experts have pointed out the difficulty of and uncertainty in developing accurate premium rates for 2015 (see, e.g., American Academy of Actuaries Issue Brief, "Drivers of 2015 Health Insurance Premium Changes," June 2014, page 2). This was reflected in the rate applications submitted to DFS for 2015 premium rates. There were wide differences in insurers' assumptions and projections about future claims costs. Because of this wide variation, as well as the recognized uncertainty in accurately projecting 2015 medical costs, DFS has given attention to insurers' average overall assumptions, with consideration for regional differences within New York.

Claims Trend:

The claims trend assumptions of insurers submitting rate adjustment applications to DFS varied widely. As noted above, there was very little claims and enrollment data for insurers to base their projections on.

Health Republic assumed a claims trend of 5.00%. Based on information submitted in the rate application, the average requested claims trend assumptions of all insurers in the same geographic region, and external studies on medical cost projections, DFS finds that Health Republic's claims trend assumption is reasonable.

Morbidity / Federal Risk Adjustment:

Under the ACA, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services must develop a risk adjustment program that will establish a risk adjustment pool that insurers will have to either pay into if their members have lower than average morbidity or receive money from if their members have higher than average morbidity. Insurers were required to include in their 2015 rate applications any adjustments that reflected federal risk adjustment payments or receipts. To assist insurers, DFS conducted a risk adjustment simulation. DFS reviewed insurers' assumptions regarding risk adjustments in conjunction with the insurers' assumptions as to morbidity since risk adjustment and morbidity assumptions are related.

Health Republic assumed a factor of 1.000 for risk adjustment and morbidity (combined). Based on information contained in the rate application, DFS finds that a factor of 1.000 is reasonable, a finding that has no impact on the requested premium rates.

Administrative Expense Ratio / Profit Objective:

Health Republic assumed an administrative expense ratio of 18.97% and a profit ratio of 0.99%. These assumptions, however, produce an MLR below the statutory minimum of 82.00%. DFS therefore finds that an administrative expense ratio of 17.01% is reasonable because it will increase Health Republic's MLR to the statutory minimum of 82.00%.

Decision:

Based on the review and analysis described above, DFS finds that the requested increase is not reasonable and modifies the increase shown in the summary chart above.