



# sun-herald.com

Tue, Oc

Home | Sports | Classifieds | Charlotte News | Englewood News | North Port News | DeSoto News

advertisement

Larry

**TAYLOR FUNERAL**  
and Cremation Services

*Now You Don't Have  
To Choose Between  
Service & Price*

**941-833-0600**  
[www.ltaylorfuneral.com](http://www.ltaylorfuneral.com)



**10/04/05**

## Insurance committee meets today

A 10-member committee given the task of simplifying Florida homeowners' insurance will meet for the first time from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in Room 110 of the Senate Office Building in Tallahassee.

Appointed by Florida Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher in response to a state law passed last year, the committee will work to develop a standard homeowners' insurance policy for Floridians that is both easy to understand and offers comprehensive coverage.

"Time after time, in hurricane recovery town hall meetings and in calls to my office, Floridians said they were surprised at what their policies didn't cover or that their coverage was not enough to rebuild their homes," said Gallagher, who oversees the Florida Department of Financial Services and is seeking the Republican nomination as a candidate for governor. "The committee is tasked with developing a simple, plain-language homeowners insurance policy with the consumer in mind."

The new law required Gallagher to appoint an advisory committee that includes two members recommended by Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty, two appointees from the residential property insurance industry, two property insurance agents, two consumers and a Florida's Insurance Consumer Advocate. The committee must issue its recommendation to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2006.

In addition to today's meeting, the committee will meet three more times, on Oct. 28, Nov. 17 and Dec. 6.

Gallagher's appointee, Rick Mahler, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Financial Services, will act as chair of the committee. The other members are:

Insurance company representatives -- Joel P. Curran, chief underwriting officer and senior manager, Towerhill Insurance Group; and Jim Graganella, president and CEO, Capital Preferred and Southern Fidelity Insurance Companies.


Insurance agent representatives -- Hector Fortune, Fortune Insurance; and Bruce A. Baker, USI Insurance Services of Florida Inc.

Consumers -- Rick Suarez, owner of Ready Windows, Miami; and Arnold Whisenant, retired, Jacksonville.

Recommended by the Office of Insurance Regulation -- Dr. Elizabeth Beard Goldsmith, professor, Florida State University, National Association of Insurance Commissioner's consumer representative; and Richard C. Koon, senior management analyst, director of policy forms, Office of Insurance Regulation.

Insurance consumer advocate -- Steve Burgess.

## **Staff Report**

**Sunline**  © 2005 All rights reserved.  
Your Local Internet Service Provider  
A division of Sun Coast Media Group Inc.  
Publishers of the Sun newspapers.