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TO: Rachel Hemphill, Chair, Life Actuarial (A) Task Force
FROM: Pete Miller, ASA, MAAA, Experience Study Actuary, Society of Actuaries (SOA) Research Institute
Tony Phipps, Chair, SOA Research Institute Committee on Life Insurance Company Expenses
DATE: August 1, 2024
RE: 2025 Generally Recognized Expense Table (GRET) – SOA Research Institute Analysis

Dear Ms. Hemphill:

As in previous years, the Society of Actuaries Research Institute expresses its thanks to NAIC staff for their assistance and responsiveness in providing Annual Statement expense and unit data for the 2025 GRET analysis for use with individual life insurance sales illustrations. The analysis is based on expense and expense-related information reported on each company's 2022 and 2023 Annual Statements. This project has been completed to assist the Life Actuarial Task Force (LATF) in considering potential revisions to the GRET that could become effective for the calendar year 2025. This memo describes the analysis and resultant findings.

NAIC staff provided Annual Statement data for life insurance companies for calendar years 2022 and 2023. This included data from 749 companies in 2022 and 745 companies in 2023. This decrease resumes the trend of small decreases from year to year. Of the total companies, 378 were in both years and passed the outlier exclusion tests and were included as a base for the GRET factors (379 companies passed similar tests last year).

Approach Used

The methodology for calculating the recommended GRET factors based on this data is similar to that in the



surveying the companies in future years to enable the enhancement of this multiple distribution channel information.

Companies were excluded from the analysis if in either 2022 or 2023, (1) their A/E ratios were considered outliers, often due to low business volume, (2) the average first year and single premium per policy were more than \$40,000, (3) they are known reinsurance companies or (4) their data were not included in the data supplied by the NAIC. To derive the overall GRET factors, the unweighted average of the remaining companies' A/E ratios for each respective category was calculated. The resulting factors were rounded, as shown in Table 1.

The Recommendation

The above methodology results in the proposed 2025 GRET values shown in Table 1. To facilitate comparisons, the current 2024 GRET factors are shown in Table 2. Further characteristics of the type of companies represented in each category are included in the last two columns in Table 1, including the average premium per policy issued and the average face amount (\$000s) per policy issued.

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TABLE 1
PROPOSED 2025 GRET FACTORS, BASED ON AVERAGE OF 2022/2023 DATA

DESCRIPTION	Acquisition per Policy	Acquisition per Unit	Acquisition per Premium	Maintenance per Policy	Companies Included	Average Premium Per Policy Issued During Year	Average Face Amt (000) Per Policy Issued During Year
Independent							



In previous recommendations, an effort was made to reduce volatility in the GRET factors from year to year by limiting the yearly change in GRET factors to about ten percent of the prior value. The changes from the 2024 GRET were reviewed to ensure that a significant change was not made in this year's GRET recommendation.

All GRET factors the Direct Marketing distribution channel and the Acquisition per Unit factor for Career experienced changes greater than ten percent, so the factors for these lines were capped at the ten percent level (or slightly above/below 10% due to rounding of the factor) from the corresponding 2024 GRET values. This volatility occurred due to an increasing median A/E ratio for each distribution channel, which allowed for additional companies with higher A/E ratios to be included in the calculation that were previously dropped. Final GRET A/E medians increased for all distribution types with the largest changes in the Career and Direct Marketing sections.

The average premium per policy issued during the year saw a decrease of 518 from last year to this year, accompanying this is a 4,262 policy decrease in policies issued from last year to this year. This increase in A/E medians is due to the 6.4% increase in the average face amount per policy issued for all distribution types.

Usage of the GRET

This year's survey, responded to by each company's Annual Statement correspondent, included a question regarding whether the 2024 GRET table was used in its illustrations by the company. Last year, 44% of the responders indicated their company used the GRET for sales illustration purposes, which is much higher than previous years, typically around 31-35% of companies indicate their usage of GRET. This year, 34% of responding companies indicated they used the GRET in 2024 for sales illustration purposes. The range covered all distribution methods, including 20% for Independent, 63% for Career, 80% for Direct Marketing, and 17% for Niche Marketers. Based on the information received over the last several years, the variation in GRET usage appears to be in large part due to the relatively small sample size and different responders to the surveys.

We hope LATF finds this information helpful and sufficient for consideration of a potential update to the GRET. If you require further analysis or have questions, please contact Pete Miller at 847-706-3566.

Kindest personal regards,

Pete Miller, ASA, MAAA

Tony Phipps, FSA, MAAA



Appendix A – Distribution Channels

The following is a description of distribution channels used in the development of recommended 2023 GRET values:



Appendix B – Unit Expense Seeds

The expense seeds used in the 2014 and prior GRETs were differentiated between branch office and all other categories, due to the results of a relatively old study that had indicated that branch office acquisition cost expressed on a per Face Amount basis was about double that of other distribution channels. Due to the elimination of the branch office category in the 2015 GRET, non-differentiated unit expense seeds have been used in the current and immediately prior studies.

The unit expense seeds used in the 2024 GRET and the 2023 GRET recommendations were based on the average of the 2006 through 2010 Annual SOA expense studies. These studies differentiated unit expenses by type of individual life insurance policy (term and permanent coverages). As neither the GRET nor the Annual Statement data provided differentiates between these two types of coverage, the unit expense seed was derived by judgment based this information. The following shows the averages derived from the Annual SOA studies and the seeds used in this study. Beginning with the 2020 Annual Statement submission this information will become more readily available.

2006-2010 (AVERAGE) CLICE STUDIES:

	Acquisition/ Policy	Acquisition/ Face Amount (000)	Acquisition/ Premium	Maintenance/ Policy
Term				