

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2770

4
5 By: Representative R. Smith
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE FIRE PROTECTION TO BE
9 CONSIDERED IN PROPERTY INSURANCE RATING PLANS;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 FIRE LOSS REPORTING ACT OF 2003.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. This act may be referred to as the "Fire Loss Reporting Act
20 of 2003".
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22 SECTION 2. Annual information concerning fire related losses.

23 (a) Any insurance company licensed to write homeowner, fire, and
24 extended coverage, or renters and mobile home insurance in Arkansas, shall
25 annually file with the Insurance Commissioner a statement of its losses
26 related to fire on a county by county basis, in a form and manner prescribed
27 by the commissioner.

28 (b) The commissioner shall annually compile the loss information under
29 subdivision (2)(a) of this section in an aggregate form, by county, for
30 dissemination to the Arkansas General Assembly, state agencies, counties, and
31 the public.
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33 SECTION 3. Proprietary information.

34 Information filed under this act by an insurance company with the
35 Insurance Commissioner shall be treated as proprietary information and is
36 exempt from public disclosure except in an aggregate form.



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SECTION 4. Rating structure characteristic.

Each insurance company writing property insurance in Arkansas shall include within its property rating structure a characteristic that includes a fire protection classification that considers and utilizes the preparedness and effectiveness of public fire prevention and defense efforts of the primary responding fire department of any governmental, improvement district, or volunteer organization providing those services for the structure to be insured.

SECTION 5. Notice regarding fire protection.

In an effort to educate policy holders of the benefits of fire protection, every insurance company shall include in the premium notice to policy holders the following notice: "IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING FIRE PROTECTION

Did you know that the firefighting ability of your Fire Department helps lower your insurance rates? It's true! The better your firefighters are equipped and trained, the better their access to water for fighting fires, the length of time it takes for them to arrive at a fire, are a few of the many factors that are used to determine your homeowner's insurance rates. Help your firefighters help you! They need your support, financial, and otherwise. Adequate funding is important to improving the protection that may translate to lower premiums!"

SECTION 6. The Insurance Commissioner may adopt reasonable rules and regulations to enforce the provisions of this act.

SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that fire is the leading cause of insurance loss in the state; that the number of deaths due to fire are a major economic burden to the citizens and counties of this state; and that specific county by county fire loss data will help the counties better evaluate the preparedness and effectiveness of their fire fighting capabilities. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.