

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
4

As Engrossed: H3/20/03

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2770

5 By: Representative R. Smith
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE FIRE PROTECTION TO BE
10 CONSIDERED IN PROPERTY INSURANCE RATING PLANS;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 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 property insurance in
24 Arkansas, shall annually file with the Insurance Commissioner a statement of
25 its losses related to fire on a county by county basis, in a form and manner
26 prescribed by the commissioner.

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

33 Information filed under this act by an insurance company with the
34 Insurance Commissioner shall be treated as proprietary information and is
35 exempt from public disclosure except in an aggregate form.
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3 SECTION 4. Notice regarding fire protection.

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

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

16 (b) The notice prescribed by subsection (a) of this section shall be
17 in twelve (12) point type or larger.

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19 SECTION 5. The Insurance Commissioner may adopt reasonable rules and
20 regulations to enforce the provisions of this act.

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22 SECTION 6. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
23 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that fire is the leading cause of
24 insurance loss in the state; that the number of deaths due to fire are a
25 major economic burden to the citizens and counties of this state; and that
26 specific county by county fire loss data will help the counties better
27 evaluate the preparedness and effectiveness of their fire fighting
28 capabilities. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
29 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
30 and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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

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/s/ R. Smith