

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
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4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 291

5 By: Senator Rapert
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW FOR AFFILIATE TRANSFER BETWEEN
9 INSURERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 TO ALLOW FOR AFFILIATE TRANSFER BETWEEN
12 INSURERS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 23-79-307 is amended to read as follows:
20 23-79-307. Standards.

21 (a) In addition to other applicable provisions of the Arkansas
22 Insurance Code, insurers and insurance policies subject to the provisions of
23 this subchapter shall meet the following standards:

24 (1) Notice of claim given by or on behalf of the named insured
25 to any authorized agent of the insurer with specific information to identify
26 the insured is deemed notice of claim to the insurer;

27 (2) Policies may be issued for a term in excess of twelve (12)
28 months with the premium adjustable on an annual basis if the policy contains
29 an express provision to that effect. At least thirty (30) days' advance
30 notice in writing of the premium to be charged on the policy anniversary date
31 must be given to the insured and the agent of record if the insured has
32 furnished the information necessary to calculate the premium;

33 (3) Forms or endorsements issued after the policy inception date
34 not at the request of the named insured that reduce, restrict, or modify the
35 original policy coverage must be accepted and signed by the named insured;

36 (4) Any policy providing an aggregate limit of liability within



1 the schedule of limits must include a notice specifying that the policy limit
2 is an "aggregate". The aggregate limit provision must be clearly defined
3 within the policy;

4 (5)(A) Policies containing provisions that would reduce the
5 limit of liability available for judgments or settlements by the amount of
6 payment made for defense cost or claim expenses shall not be approved by the
7 Insurance Commissioner unless a separate limit for defense costs equal to one
8 hundred percent (100%) of the annual aggregate limit of liability stated in
9 the policy for judgments or settlements is offered for defense costs or
10 claims expenses to the insured. However, no policy covering automobile
11 liability insurance may contain the defense within the limits concept.

12 (B) This subsection ~~shall~~ does not apply to policies or
13 contracts that the commissioner may exempt by order upon a finding that this
14 subsection may not practically be applied or that its application is not
15 necessary or desirable for the protection of the public;

16 (6)(A) When an insurer revises its rates or rules and the
17 revision results in a premium increase equal to or greater than twenty-five
18 percent (25%) on any renewal policy issued for a term of twelve (12) months
19 or less, the insurer shall mail or deliver to the insured's agent not less
20 than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of renewal, and to the
21 insured not less than ten (10) days prior to the effective date of renewal,
22 notice specifically stating the insurer's intention to increase the premium
23 by an amount equal to or greater than twenty-five percent (25%).

24 (B) If the notice is not given as stated in subdivision
25 (6)(A) of this section, the insurer is required to extend the existing policy
26 thirty (30) days from the date the notice is mailed or delivered. The
27 premium for the policy as extended in such circumstances shall be no more
28 than the pro rata premium of the existing policy;

29 (7) Except in the case of nonpayment of premium, an insurer
30 shall renew a policy unless a written notice of nonrenewal is mailed at least
31 sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date of the policy or, for a policy
32 for a term longer than one (1) year and not having a fixed expiration date,
33 sixty (60) days prior to the anniversary date; and

34 (8) Policies containing an exclusion for punitive damages must
35 include a definition of punitive damages substantially similar to the
36 following: "Punitive damages" are damages that may be imposed to punish a

wrongdoer and to deter others from similar conduct.

(b) As used in this section, "renewal" or "renew" means the issuance and delivery by an insurer of a policy superseding a policy previously issued by the insurer at the end of the previously issued policy period if the policy is delivered by:

(1) The same insurer; or

(2) An affiliate or subsidiary, as those terms are defined in § 23-63-503, that has a financial strength rating that is:

(A) Issued by an industry-recognized independent insurance rating company; and

(B) At least as good as the insurer issuing the superseded policy.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-79-102 is amended to read as follows:

23-79-102. Scope.

Sections 23-79-101, 23-79-103 – 23-79-107, 23-79-109 – 23-79-128, 23-79-131 – 23-79-134, 23-79-162, and 23-79-202 – 23-79-210 do not apply to:

(1) Reinsurance;

(2)(A) Policies or contracts not issued for delivery in this state nor delivered in this state, except:

(i) On subjects of insurance other than life or accident and health insurance, located or to be performed in this state; and

(ii) Pursuant to § 23-79-109(e).

(B) Subdivision (2)(A) of this section does not apply to group insurance certificates issued under group insurance policies carried out and delivered outside this state but covering a person that is a resident in this state;

(3) Wet marine and foreign trade insurance; and

(4) Title insurance, except that the following apply to this line:

(A) Section 23-79-101(1), §§ 23-79-109 – 23-79-111, 23-79-113, 23-79-116, 23-79-118, 23-79-119, and 23-79-202 – 23-79-205; and

(B) Section 23-79-121, provided that the insurer may authorize or require its title agents to provide the policy to the insured.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 79, Subchapter 1, is

1 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

2 23-79-162. Notice of renewal in affiliate or subsidiary.

3 (a) This section applies to all forms of property and casualty
 4 insurance written under this subchapter.

5 (b) A notice of nonrenewal is not required if:

6 (1) The insured is transferred from an insurer to an affiliate
 7 insurer for future coverage; and

8 (2) The transfer results in substantially similar or broader
 9 coverage to the insured.

10 (c)(1) Notice of a renewal in an affiliate or subsidiary shall be
 11 provided to a policyholder according to the renewal notice requirements
 12 applicable to the type or kind of policy being renewed.

13 (2) The notice of renewal in an affiliate or subsidiary
 14 described in subdivision (c)(1) of this section shall state:

15 (A) The reason for the change to the affiliate or
 16 subsidiary;

17 (B) That coverage shall be provided by the affiliate or
 18 subsidiary unless the policyholder chooses to pursue coverage with an insurer
 19 outside the group of affiliated insurers; and

20 (C) The relevant information about changes to the policy's
 21 deductible, provisions, and amount of premium.

22 (d) At least ninety (90) days in advance of mailing the notice of
 23 renewal in an affiliate or subsidiary to its policyholders, an insurer shall
 24 notify the Insurance Commissioner of its intention to renew policies in bulk
 25 in an affiliate or subsidiary and provide the commissioner with a copy of the
 26 notice to policyholders.

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 28 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-88-105, concerning notice required
 29 before expiration of a property insurance policy, is amended to add an
 30 additional subsection to read as follows:

31 (c) As used in this section, "renewal" means the issuance or delivery
 32 by an insurer of a policy superseding a policy previously issued by the
 33 insurer at the end of the previously issued policy period if the policy is
 34 delivered by:

35 (1) The same insurer; or

36 (2) An affiliate or subsidiary, as those terms are defined in §

1 23-63-503, that has a financial strength rating that is:

2 (A) Issued by an industry-recognized independent insurance
3 rating company; and

4 (B) At least as good as the insurer issuing the superseded
5 policy.

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7 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-89-301(6)(A), concerning the definition
8 of "renewal" or "to renew", is amended to read as follows:

9 (6)(A) "Renewal" or "to renew" means the issuance and delivery
10 by an insurer of a:

11 ~~(i) policy replacing at the end of the policy period~~
12 Policy superseding a policy previously issued and delivered by:

13 (a) the The same insurer; or

14 (b) An affiliate or subsidiary, as defined in
15 § 23-63-503, that has a financial strength rating that is:

16 (1) Issued by an industry-recognized
17 independent insurance rating company; and

18 (2) At least as good as the insurer
19 issuing the superseded policy; or

20 ~~(ii) the issuance and delivery of a certificate~~
21 Certificate or notice extending the term of a policy beyond its policy period
22 or term.

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