

Act No. 98
Public Acts of 1996
Approved by the Governor
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
88TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1996**

Introduced by Reps. Law, Ryan, Perricone, Whyman, Weeks, Bullard, Dolan, Olshove, Bankes, Palamara,
Voorhees, London, Hill and Llewellyn
Rep. Rocca named co-sponsor

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5177

AN ACT to amend section 2111 of Act No. 218 of the Public Acts of 1956, entitled as amended "An act to revise, consolidate, and classify the laws relating to the insurance and surety business; to regulate the incorporation or formation of domestic insurance and surety companies and associations and the admission of foreign and alien companies and associations; to provide their rights, powers, and immunities and to prescribe the conditions on which companies and associations organized, existing, or authorized under this act may exercise their powers; to provide the rights, powers, and immunities and to prescribe the conditions on which other persons, firms, corporations, associations, risk retention groups, and purchasing groups engaged in an insurance or surety business may exercise their powers; to provide for the imposition of a privilege fee on domestic insurance companies and associations and the state accident fund; to provide for the imposition of a tax on the business of foreign and alien companies and associations; to provide for the imposition of a tax on risk retention groups and purchasing groups; to provide for the imposition of a tax on the business of surplus line agents; to provide for the imposition of regulatory fees on certain insurers; to modify tort liability arising out of certain accidents; to provide for limited actions with respect to that modified tort liability and to prescribe certain procedures for maintaining those actions; to require security for losses arising out of certain accidents; to provide for the continued availability and affordability of automobile insurance and homeowners insurance in this state and to facilitate the purchase of that insurance by all residents of this state at fair and reasonable rates; to provide for certain reporting with respect to insurance and with respect to certain claims against uninsured or self-insured persons; to prescribe duties for certain state departments and officers with respect to that reporting; to provide for certain assessments; to establish and continue certain state insurance funds; to modify and clarify the status, rights, powers, duties, and operations of the nonprofit malpractice insurance fund; to provide for the departmental supervision and regulation of the insurance and surety business within this state; to provide for the conservation, rehabilitation, or liquidation of unsound or insolvent insurers; to provide for the protection of policyholders, claimants, and creditors of unsound or insolvent insurers; to provide for associations of insurers to protect policyholders and claimants in the event of insurer insolvencies; to prescribe educational requirements for insurance agents and solicitors; to provide for the regulation of multiple employer welfare arrangements; to create an automobile theft prevention authority to reduce the number of automobile thefts in this state; to prescribe the powers and duties of the automobile theft prevention authority; to provide certain powers and duties upon certain officials, departments, and authorities of this state; to repeal certain acts and parts of acts; to repeal certain acts and parts of acts on specific dates; to repeal certain parts of this act on specific dates; and to provide penalties for the violation of this act," as amended by Act No. 191 of the Public Acts of 1991, being section 500.2111 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. Section 2111 of Act No. 218 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended by Act No. 191 of the Public Acts of 1991, being section 500.2111 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2111. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this act and this chapter to the contrary, classifications and territorial base rates used by any insurer in this state with respect to automobile insurance or home insurance shall conform to the applicable requirements of this section.

(2) Classifications established pursuant to this section for automobile insurance shall be based only upon 1 or more of the following factors, which shall be applied by an insurer on a uniform basis throughout the state:

(a) With respect to all automobile insurance coverages:

(i) Either the age of the driver; the length of driving experience; or the number of years licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

(ii) Driver primacy, based upon the proportionate use of each vehicle insured under the policy by individual drivers insured or to be insured under the policy.

(iii) Average miles driven weekly, annually, or both.

(iv) Type of use, such as business, farm, or pleasure use.

(v) Vehicle characteristics, features, and options, such as engine displacement, ability of vehicle and its equipment to protect passengers from injury and other similar items, including vehicle make and model.

(vi) Daily or weekly commuting mileage.

(vii) Number of cars insured by the insurer or number of licensed operators in the household. However, number of licensed operators shall not be used as an indirect measure of marital status.

(viii) Amount of insurance.

(b) In addition to the factors prescribed in subdivision (a), with respect to personal protection insurance coverage:

(i) Earned income.

(ii) Number of dependents of income earners insured under the policy.

(iii) Coordination of benefits.

(iv) Use of a safety belt.

(c) In addition to the factors prescribed in subdivision (a), with respect to collision and comprehensive coverages:

(i) The anticipated cost of vehicle repairs or replacement, which may be measured by age, price, cost new, or value of the insured automobile, and other factors directly relating to that anticipated cost.

(ii) Vehicle make and model.

(iii) Vehicle design characteristics related to vehicle damageability.

(iv) Vehicle characteristics relating to automobile theft prevention devices.

(d) With respect to all automobile insurance coverage other than comprehensive, successful completion by the individual driver or drivers insured under the policy of an accident prevention education course that meets the following criteria:

(i) The course shall include a minimum of 8 hours of classroom instruction.

(ii) The course shall include, but not be limited to, a review of all of the following:

(A) The effects of aging on driving behavior.

(B) The shapes, colors, and types of road signs.

(C) The effects of alcohol and medication on driving.

(D) The laws relating to the proper use of a motor vehicle.

(E) Accident prevention measures.

(F) The benefits of safety belts and child restraints.

(G) Major driving hazards.

(H) Interaction with other highway users such as motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

(3) Each insurer shall establish a secondary or merit rating plan for automobile insurance, other than comprehensive coverage. A secondary or merit rating plan required under this subsection shall provide for premium surcharges for any or all coverages for automobile insurance, other than comprehensive coverage, based upon any or all of the following, when that information becomes available to the insurer:

(a) Substantially at-fault accidents.

(b) Convictions for, determinations of responsibility for civil infractions for, or findings of responsibility in probate court for civil infractions for, violations under chapter VI of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, being sections 257.601 to 257.750 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. However, beginning 90 days after the effective date of this sentence, an insured shall not be merit rated for a civil infraction under chapter VI of Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, for

a period of time longer than that which the secretary of state's office carries points for that infraction on the insured's motor vehicle record.

(4) An insurer shall not establish or maintain rates or rating classifications for automobile insurance based upon sex or marital status.

(5) Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, automobile insurance risks may be grouped by territory.

(6) This section shall not be construed as limiting insurers or rating organizations from establishing and maintaining statistical reporting territories. This section shall not be construed to prohibit an insurer from establishing or maintaining, for automobile insurance, a premium discount plan for senior citizens in this state who are 65 years of age or older, if the plan is uniformly applied by the insurer throughout this state. If an insurer has not established and maintained a premium discount plan for senior citizens, the insurer shall offer reduced premium rates to senior citizens in this state who are 65 years of age or older and who drive less than 3,000 miles per year, regardless of statistical data.

(7) Classifications established pursuant to this section for home insurance other than inland marine insurance provided by policy floaters or endorsements shall be based only upon 1 or more of the following factors:

(a) Amount and types of coverage.

(b) Security and safety devices, including locks, smoke detectors, and similar, related devices.

(c) Repairable structural defects reasonably related to risk.

(d) Fire protection class.

(e) Construction of structure, based on structure size, building material components, and number of units.

(f) Loss experience of the insured, based upon prior claims attributable to factors under the control of the insured that have been paid by an insurer.

(g) Use of smoking materials within the structure.

(h) Distance of the structure from a fire hydrant.

(i) Availability of law enforcement or crime prevention services.

(8) Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, home insurance risks may be grouped by territory.

(9) An insurer may utilize factors in addition to those specified in this section, if the commissioner finds, after a hearing held pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, that the factors would encourage innovation, would encourage insureds to minimize the risks of loss from hazards insured against, and would be consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(10) The commissioner shall report in writing to the senate and house of representatives standing committees of insurance issues by January 1, 2000 of the effect that the amendatory act that added this subsection has had on automobile and home insurance premiums in this state.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Secretary of the Senate.

Approved -----

Governor.