

Act No. 35
Public Acts of 2007
Approved by the Governor
July 10, 2007
Filed with the Secretary of State
July 11, 2007
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 11, 2007

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
94TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2007**

Introduced by Reps. Spade, Mayes, Hammel, Gonzales, Clemente, Kathleen Law, Griffin, Dean, Wojno, Farrah, Alma Smith, Valentine, Angerer, Ebli, LeBlanc, Polidori, Bennett, Sak, Lemmons, Miller, Meadows, Accavitti, Byrnes, Sheltrown, McDowell, Tobocman, Hammon, Hopgood, Johnson, Constan and Rick Jones

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4177

AN ACT to amend 1956 PA 218, entitled "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 provide for assessment fees on certain health maintenance organizations; 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 regulation over worker's compensation self-insurers; 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 provide for an appropriation; to repeal acts and parts of acts; and to provide penalties for the violation of this act,” by amending sections 2118 and 2120 (MCL 500.2118 and 500.2120), section 2118 as amended by 2002 PA 492 and section 2120 as amended by 1984 PA 350, and by adding section 2116a.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 2116a. An automobile insurer shall not refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure, limit coverage available to, charge a reinstatement fee for, or increase the premiums for automobile insurance solely because a person failed to maintain insurance required by section 3101 for a vehicle owned by the person during the 6-month period immediately preceding application if the person certifies on a form provided by the insurer that the lapse in coverage was because the person was on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for at least 30 consecutive days and that the vehicle was not driven or moved during the 6-month period immediately preceding application or during the period of time the insurance was not maintained, whichever period is shorter. This section applies only to an eligible person.

Sec. 2118. (1) As a condition of maintaining its certificate of authority, an insurer shall not refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure, or limit coverage available to an eligible person for automobile insurance, except in accordance with underwriting rules established pursuant to this section and sections 2119 and 2120.

(2) The underwriting rules that an insurer may establish for automobile insurance shall be based only on the following:

(a) Criteria identical to the standards set forth in section 2103(1).

(b) The insurance eligibility point accumulation in excess of the amounts established by section 2103(1) of a member of the household of the eligible person insured or to be insured, if the member of the household usually accounts for 10% or more of the use of a vehicle insured or to be insured. For purposes of this subdivision, a person who is the principal driver for 1 automobile insurance policy shall be rebuttably presumed not to usually account for more than 10% of the use of other vehicles of the household not insured under the policy of that person.

(c) With respect to a vehicle insured or to be insured, substantial modifications from the vehicle’s original manufactured state for purposes of increasing the speed or acceleration capabilities of the vehicle.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in section 2116a, failure by the person to provide proof that insurance required by section 3101 was maintained in force with respect to any vehicle that was both owned by the person and driven or moved by the person or by a member of the household of the person during the 6-month period immediately preceding application. Such proof shall take the form of a certification by the person on a form provided by the insurer that the vehicle was not driven or moved without maintaining the insurance required by section 3101 during the 6-month period immediately preceding application.

(e) Type of vehicle insured or to be insured, based on 1 of the following, without regard to the age of the vehicle:

(i) The vehicle is of limited production or of custom manufacture.

(ii) The insurer does not have a rate lawfully in effect for the type of vehicle.

(iii) The vehicle represents exposure to extraordinary expense for repair or replacement under comprehensive or collision coverage.

(f) Use of a vehicle insured or to be insured for transportation of passengers for hire, for rental purposes, or for commercial purposes. Rules under this subdivision shall not be based on the use of a vehicle for volunteer or charitable purposes or for which reimbursement for normal operating expenses is received.

(g) Payment of a minimum deposit at the time of application or renewal, not to exceed the smallest deposit required under an extended payment or premium finance plan customarily used by the insurer.

(h) For purposes of requiring comprehensive deductibles of not more than \$150.00, or of refusing to insure if the person refuses to accept a required deductible, the claim experience of the person with respect to comprehensive coverage.

(i) Total abstinence from the consumption of alcoholic beverages except if such beverages are consumed as part of a religious ceremony. However, an insurer shall not utilize an underwriting rule based on this subdivision unless the insurer has been authorized to transact automobile insurance in this state prior to January 1, 1981, and has consistently utilized such an underwriting rule as part of the insurer’s automobile insurance underwriting since being authorized to transact automobile insurance in this state.

(j) One or more incidents involving a threat, harassment, or physical assault by the insured or applicant for insurance on an insurer employee, agent, or agent employee while acting within the scope of his or her employment so long as a report of the incident was filed with an appropriate law enforcement agency.

Sec. 2120. (1) Affiliated insurers may establish underwriting rules so that each affiliate will provide automobile insurance only to certain eligible persons. This subsection shall apply only if an eligible person can obtain automobile insurance from 1 of the affiliates. The underwriting rules shall be in compliance with this section and sections 2118 and 2119.

(2) An insurer may establish separate rating plans so that certain eligible persons are provided automobile insurance under 1 rating plan and other eligible persons are provided automobile insurance under another rating plan. This subsection shall apply only if all eligible persons can obtain automobile insurance under a rating plan of the insurer. Underwriting rules consistent with this section and sections 2118 and 2119 shall be established to define the rating plan applicable to each eligible person.

(3) Underwriting rules under this section shall be based only on the following:

(a) With respect to a vehicle insured or to be insured, substantial modifications from the vehicle's original manufactured state for purposes of increasing the speed or acceleration capabilities of the vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in section 2116a, failure of the person to provide proof that insurance required by section 3101 was maintained in force with respect to any vehicle owned and operated by the person or by a member of the household of the person during the 6-month period immediately preceding application or renewal of the policy. Such proof shall take the form of a certification by the person that the required insurance was maintained in force for the 6-month period with respect to such vehicle.

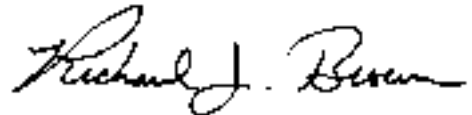
(c) For purposes of insuring persons who have refused a deductible lawfully required under section 2118(2)(h), the claim experience of the person with respect to comprehensive coverage.

(d) Refusal of the person to pay a minimum deposit required under section 2118(2)(g).

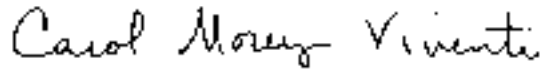
(e) A person's insurance eligibility point accumulation under section 2103(1)(h), or the total insurance eligibility point accumulation of all persons who account for 10% or more of the use of 1 or more vehicles insured or to be insured under the policy.

(f) The type of vehicle insured or to be insured as provided in section 2118(2)(e).

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved _____

Governor