

HOUSE BILL No. 5522

May 6, 2014, Introduced by Reps. Irwin, Hobbs, Rutledge, Slavens, LaVoy, Faris, Phelps, Lipton, Darany, Brown and Oakes and referred to the Committee on Insurance.

A bill to amend 1956 PA 218, entitled
"The insurance code of 1956,"
(MCL 500.100 to 500.8302) by adding section 2027a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 SEC. 2027A. (1) A PROPERTY OR CASUALTY INSURER SHALL PAY
2 REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES TO AN ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTS THE INSURED
3 IN A SUCCESSFUL FIRST-PARTY ACTION TO RECOVER PROPERTY OR CASUALTY
4 INSURANCE BENEFITS THAT ARE OVERDUE. THE ATTORNEY FEE SHALL BE A
5 CHARGE AGAINST THE PROPERTY OR CASUALTY INSURER IN ADDITION TO THE
6 BENEFITS RECOVERED AND IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER REMEDIES AVAILABLE.

7 (2) THE INSURED DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) SHALL ALSO RECEIVE
8 THE GREATER OF \$10,000.00 OR 3 TIMES THE AMOUNT OF BENEFITS
9 WITHHELD, IF THE FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY BENEFITS UNDER SUBSECTION
10 (1) INVOLVED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

11 (A) MISREPRESENTING PERTINENT FACTS OR INSURANCE POLICY

1 PROVISIONS CONCERNING COVERAGES AT ISSUE.

2 (B) FAILING TO ACKNOWLEDGE PROMPTLY OR TO ACT REASONABLY AND
3 PROMPTLY UPON COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING CLAIMS ARISING UNDER THE
4 INSURANCE POLICY.

5 (C) FAILING TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT REASONABLE STANDARDS FOR
6 THE PROMPT INVESTIGATION OF CLAIMS ARISING UNDER THE INSURANCE
7 POLICY.

8 (D) REFUSING TO PAY CLAIMS WITHOUT CONDUCTING A REASONABLE
9 INVESTIGATION BASED UPON THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

10 (E) FAILING TO AFFIRM OR DENY COVERAGE OF CLAIMS WITHIN A
11 REASONABLE TIME AFTER PROOF OF LOSS STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

12 (F) FAILING TO ATTEMPT IN GOOD FAITH TO EFFECTUATE PROMPT,
13 FAIR, AND EQUITABLE SETTLEMENTS OF CLAIMS IN WHICH LIABILITY HAS
14 BECOME REASONABLY CLEAR.

15 (G) COMPELLING INSURED TO INSTITUTE LITIGATION TO RECOVER
16 AMOUNTS DUE UNDER AN INSURANCE POLICY BY OFFERING SUBSTANTIALLY
17 LESS THAN THE AMOUNTS DUE THE INSURED.

18 (H) ATTEMPTING TO SETTLE A CLAIM FOR LESS THAN THE AMOUNT TO
19 WHICH A REASONABLE PERSON WOULD BELIEVE THE CLAIMANT WAS ENTITLED,
20 BY REFERENCE TO WRITTEN OR PRINTED ADVERTISING MATERIAL
21 ACCOMPANYING OR MADE PART OF AN APPLICATION.

22 (I) ATTEMPTING TO SETTLE CLAIMS ON THE BASIS OF AN APPLICATION
23 THAT WAS ALTERED WITHOUT NOTICE TO, OR KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT OF, THE
24 INSURED.

25 (J) MAKING A CLAIMS PAYMENT TO A POLICYHOLDER OR BENEFICIARY
26 OMITTING THE COVERAGE UNDER WHICH EACH PAYMENT IS BEING MADE.

27 (K) MAKING KNOWN TO INSURED OR CLAIMANTS A POLICY OF

1 APPEALING FROM ARBITRATION AWARDS IN FAVOR OF INSURED OR CLAIMANTS
2 FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPELLING THEM TO ACCEPT SETTLEMENTS OR
3 COMPROMISES LESS THAN THE AMOUNT AWARDED IN ARBITRATION.

4 (I) DELAYING THE INVESTIGATION OR PAYMENT OF CLAIMS BY
5 REQUIRING AN INSURED, CLAIMANT, OR THE PHYSICIAN OF EITHER TO
6 SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY CLAIM REPORT AND THEN REQUIRING SUBSEQUENT
7 SUBMISSION OF FORMAL PROOF OF LOSS FORMS, SEEKING SOLELY THE
8 DUPLICATION OF A VERIFICATION.

9 (M) FAILING TO PROMPTLY SETTLE CLAIMS WHERE LIABILITY HAS
10 BECOME REASONABLY CLEAR UNDER 1 PORTION OF THE INSURANCE POLICY
11 COVERAGE IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE SETTLEMENTS UNDER OTHER PORTIONS OF
12 THE INSURANCE POLICY.

13 (N) FAILING TO PROMPTLY PROVIDE A REASONABLE EXPLANATION OF
14 THE BASIS IN THE INSURANCE POLICY CONCERNING THE FACTS OR
15 APPLICABLE LAW FOR DENIAL OF A CLAIM OR FOR THE OFFER OF A
16 COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT.

17 (3) WHETHER AN INSURER HAS VIOLATED SUBSECTION (2) IS A
18 QUESTION OF FACT AND NOT OF LAW.

19 (4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "PROPERTY OR CASUALTY INSURER"
20 MEANS AN AUTOMOBILE INSURER, A HOME INSURER, A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
21 INSURER, OR A WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURER.

22 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
23 unless all of the following bills of the 97th Legislature are
24 enacted into law:

25 (a) Senate Bill No. _____ or House Bill No. 5518 (request no.
26 03844'13).

27 (b) Senate Bill No. _____ or House Bill No. 5523 (request no.

1 03845'13).

2 (c) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No.____ (request no.
3 03846'13).

4 (d) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No.____ (request no.
5 03846'13 a).

6 (e) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5521 (request no.
7 03849'13).

8 (f) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5525 (request no.
9 03850'13).

10 (g) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5520 (request no.
11 03945'13).

12 (h) Senate Bill No.____ or House Bill No. 5519 (request no.
13 03946'13).