

**THE INSURANCE CODE OF 1956 (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 218 of 1956**

**500.2055 Misrepresentation of insurer's financial condition as misdemeanor; penalty; civil liability of officers and agents; forfeiture of chartered privileges; publication of true statement; other violations as misdemeanor; penalty.**

Sec. 2055. (1) If any insurance corporation organized or operating within this state shall, by means of any advertisement, circular, notice or statement, printed or written, published, posted or circulated through and by the agency of any officer, agent or other person, or by any other means, falsely represent or hold out to the public that the capital stock of such company is greater than its actual amount, or that the accumulation of such insurer is greater than its actual cash or market value, or shall represent the financial condition to be other than it actually is or was at the time of making such statement, every director or officer of such insurer guilty of any participation therein shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100.00, or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 3 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

(2) If any such insurer, after such false advertisement, circular, notice or statement shall have been published, posted or circulated, shall receive any money, note or obligation for the payment of money, from any person, as a consideration for any insurance made or policy issued or to be issued by such insurer, such money, note or obligation shall be deemed and taken to have been received without consideration; and the directors of such insurer, and any officer or agent receiving the same, shall be jointly and severally liable in an action of assumpsit for the repayment thereof, and shall also, in like manner, be liable to the person insured for the amount of the insurance.

(3) Any such false advertisement, circular, notice or statement shall be sufficient ground for proceedings in any court of competent jurisdiction to forfeit the chartered privileges of such insurer, or for an order prohibiting the further transaction of business by it within this state: Provided, That no such forfeiture shall be declared on that ground solely, if it shall appear either that the publication was by mistake, or that the directors, officers or agents making the same have been dismissed from the service of such insurer, and that the insurer has published such true statement of its affairs as may have been directed by the commissioner, or such court.

(4) Any officer or agent guilty of any intentional violation of this section, or who aids or abets others in any such violation, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00, or by imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

**History:** 1956, Act 218, Eff. Jan. 1, 1957.

**Popular name:** Act 218