
SENATE BILL No. 32

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 27-2-20; IC 27-4-1-4.

Synopsis: Insurer practices and victims of abuse. Prohibits an insurer from: (1) refusing to issue or renew automobile or homeowners insurance coverage; (2) restricting or terminating automobile or homeowners insurance coverage; (3) adding a surcharge or rating factor to the premium for automobile or homeowners insurance coverage; or (4) excluding or limiting automobile or homeowners coverage or denying a claim under automobile or homeowners coverage because an individual is, has been, or may be a victim of abuse. Prohibits an insurer from asking an individual covered by or applying for an automobile or homeowners insurance policy if the individual is, has been, or may be a victim of abuse. Makes the violation of one of these prohibitions an unfair and deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance for which the insurance commissioner may impose a civil penalty or suspend or revoke an insurer's certificate of authority.

Effective: July 1, 2000.

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November 16, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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Second Regular Session 111th General Assembly (2000)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1999 General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 32



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning insurance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 27-2-20 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2000]:

4 **Chapter 20. Automobile and Homeowners Insurance Coverage**
5 **for Victims of Abuse**

6 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "abuse" means the occurrence of**
7 **one (1) or more of the following acts between family members,**
8 **between current or former household members, or between an**
9 **individual who has been granted a protective order under**
10 **IC 34-26-2 and the respondent to whom the protective order was**
11 **directed:**

12 (1) **Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or**
13 **recklessly causing bodily injury to, physical harm to, sexual**
14 **assault on, involuntary sexual intercourse with, or rape of**
15 **another individual.**

16 (2) **Knowingly engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly**
17 **committing acts, including stalking (as defined in**



- 1 **IC 35-45-10-1) or impermissible contact (as defined in**
 2 **IC 35-45-10-3), under circumstances that place the individual**
 3 **toward whom such acts are directed in reasonable fear of**
 4 **bodily injury or physical harm.**
 5 **(3) Subjecting another individual to false imprisonment.**
 6 **(4) Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or**
 7 **recklessly causing damage to property in order to intimidate**
 8 **or attempt to control the behavior of another individual.**
 9 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "automobile insurance policy"**
 10 **has the meaning set forth in IC 27-7-6-2.**
 11 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "homeowners insurance policy"**
 12 **means an insurance policy that provides one (1) or more of the**
 13 **types of coverage described in IC 27-1-5-1, Class 3(a), Class 2(c),**
 14 **and Class 2(h) with respect to the dwelling of the policyholder.**
 15 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "individual" means a natural**
 16 **person, whether an adult or a minor.**
 17 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, an "insurance policy" means:**
 18 **(1) an automobile insurance policy; or**
 19 **(2) a homeowners insurance policy.**
 20 **Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "insurer" has the meaning set**
 21 **forth in IC 27-1-2-3(x).**
 22 **Sec. 7. An insurer may not do any of the following:**
 23 **(1) Refuse to issue or renew coverage on an individual under**
 24 **an insurance policy because the individual:**
 25 **(A) is, has been, or has the potential to be a victim of**
 26 **abuse; or**
 27 **(B) seeks, has sought, or should have sought:**
 28 **(i) protection from abuse;**
 29 **(ii) shelter from abuse; or**
 30 **(iii) medical or psychological treatment for abuse.**
 31 **(2) Restrict or terminate coverage on an individual under an**
 32 **insurance policy because the individual:**
 33 **(A) is, has been, or has the potential to be a victim of**
 34 **abuse; or**
 35 **(B) seeks, has sought, or should have sought:**
 36 **(i) protection from abuse;**
 37 **(ii) shelter from abuse; or**
 38 **(iii) medical or psychological treatment for abuse.**
 39 **(3) Add a surcharge or rating factor to a premium of an**
 40 **insurance policy because an individual:**
 41 **(A) is;**
 42 **(B) has a history of being; or**

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- (C) has the potential to be;
a victim of abuse.**
- (4) Exclude or limit coverage for losses or deny a claim incurred by an individual covered by an insurance policy as a result of abuse or the potential for abuse.**
- (5) Ask an individual covered by or applying for an insurance policy if the individual:**
 - (A) is, has been, or may be a victim of abuse; or**
 - (B) is seeking, has sought, or should have sought:**
 - (i) protection from abuse;**
 - (ii) shelter from abuse; or**
 - (iii) medical or psychological treatment for abuse.**

Sec. 8. A violation of this chapter is an unfair and deceptive act and practice in the business of insurance under IC 27-4-1-4.

SECTION 2. IC 27-4-1-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2000]: Sec. 4. The following are hereby defined as unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the business of insurance:

- (1) Making, issuing, circulating, or causing to be made, issued, or circulated, any estimate, illustration, circular, or statement:
 - (A) misrepresenting the terms of any policy issued or to be issued or the benefits or advantages promised thereby or the dividends or share of the surplus to be received thereon;
 - (B) making any false or misleading statement as to the dividends or share of surplus previously paid on similar policies;
 - (C) making any misleading representation or any misrepresentation as to the financial condition of any insurer, or as to the legal reserve system upon which any life insurer operates;
 - (D) using any name or title of any policy or class of policies misrepresenting the true nature thereof; or
 - (E) making any misrepresentation to any policyholder insured in any company for the purpose of inducing or tending to induce such policyholder to lapse, forfeit, or surrender his insurance.
- (2) Making, publishing, disseminating, circulating, or placing before the public, or causing, directly or indirectly, to be made, published, disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, in a newspaper, magazine, or other publication, or in the form of a notice, circular, pamphlet, letter, or poster, or over any radio or television station, or in any other way, an advertisement,

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- 1 announcement, or statement containing any assertion,
2 representation, or statement with respect to any person in the
3 conduct of his insurance business, which is untrue, deceptive, or
4 misleading.
- 5 (3) Making, publishing, disseminating, or circulating, directly or
6 indirectly, or aiding, abetting, or encouraging the making,
7 publishing, disseminating, or circulating of any oral or written
8 statement or any pamphlet, circular, article, or literature which is
9 false, or maliciously critical of or derogatory to the financial
10 condition of an insurer, and which is calculated to injure any
11 person engaged in the business of insurance.
- 12 (4) Entering into any agreement to commit, or individually or by
13 a concerted action committing any act of boycott, coercion, or
14 intimidation resulting or tending to result in unreasonable
15 restraint of, or a monopoly in, the business of insurance.
- 16 (5) Filing with any supervisory or other public official, or making,
17 publishing, disseminating, circulating, or delivering to any person,
18 or placing before the public, or causing directly or indirectly, to
19 be made, published, disseminated, circulated, delivered to any
20 person, or placed before the public, any false statement of
21 financial condition of an insurer with intent to deceive. Making
22 any false entry in any book, report, or statement of any insurer
23 with intent to deceive any agent or examiner lawfully appointed
24 to examine into its condition or into any of its affairs, or any
25 public official to which such insurer is required by law to report,
26 or which has authority by law to examine into its condition or into
27 any of its affairs, or, with like intent, willfully omitting to make a
28 true entry of any material fact pertaining to the business of such
29 insurer in any book, report, or statement of such insurer.
- 30 (6) Issuing or delivering or permitting agents, officers, or
31 employees to issue or deliver, agency company stock or other
32 capital stock, or benefit certificates or shares in any common law
33 corporation, or securities or any special or advisory board
34 contracts or other contracts of any kind promising returns and
35 profits as an inducement to insurance.
- 36 (7) Making or permitting any of the following:
- 37 (A) Unfair discrimination between individuals of the same
38 class and equal expectation of life in the rates or assessments
39 charged for any contract of life insurance or of life annuity or
40 in the dividends or other benefits payable thereon, or in any
41 other of the terms and conditions of such contract; however, in
42 determining the class, consideration may be given to the

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1 nature of the risk, plan of insurance, the actual or expected
2 expense of conducting the business, or any other relevant
3 factor.

4 (B) Unfair discrimination between individuals of the same
5 class involving essentially the same hazards in the amount of
6 premium, policy fees, assessments, or rates charged or made
7 for any policy or contract of accident or health insurance or in
8 the benefits payable thereunder, or in any of the terms or
9 conditions of such contract, or in any other manner whatever;
10 however, in determining the class, consideration may be given
11 to the nature of the risk, the plan of insurance, the actual or
12 expected expense of conducting the business, or any other
13 relevant factor.

14 (C) Excessive or inadequate charges for premiums, policy
15 fees, assessments, or rates, or making or permitting any unfair
16 discrimination between persons of the same class involving
17 essentially the same hazards, in the amount of premiums,
18 policy fees, assessments, or rates charged or made for:

19 (i) policies or contracts of reinsurance or joint reinsurance,
20 or abstract and title insurance;

21 (ii) policies or contracts of insurance against loss or damage
22 to aircraft, or against liability arising out of the ownership,
23 maintenance, or use of any aircraft, or of vessels or craft,
24 their cargoes, marine builders' risks, marine protection and
25 indemnity, or other risks commonly insured under marine,
26 as distinguished from inland marine, insurance; or

27 (iii) policies or contracts of any other kind or kinds of
28 insurance whatsoever.

29 However, nothing contained in clause (C) shall be construed to
30 apply to any of the kinds of insurance referred to in clauses (A)
31 and (B) nor to reinsurance in relation to such kinds of insurance.
32 Nothing in clause (A), (B), or (C) shall be construed as making or
33 permitting any excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory
34 charge or rate or any charge or rate determined by the department
35 or commissioner to meet the requirements of any other insurance
36 rate regulatory law of this state.

37 (8) Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, knowingly
38 permitting or offering to make or making any contract or policy
39 of insurance of any kind or kinds whatsoever, including but not in
40 limitation, life annuities, or agreement as to such contract or
41 policy other than as plainly expressed in such contract or policy
42 issued thereon, or paying or allowing, or giving or offering to pay,

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1 allow, or give, directly or indirectly, as inducement to such
 2 insurance, or annuity, any rebate of premiums payable on the
 3 contract, or any special favor or advantage in the dividends,
 4 savings, or other benefits thereon, or any valuable consideration
 5 or inducement whatever not specified in the contract or policy; or
 6 giving, or selling, or purchasing or offering to give, sell, or
 7 purchase as inducement to such insurance or annuity or in
 8 connection therewith, any stocks, bonds, or other securities of any
 9 insurance company or other corporation, association, limited
 10 liability company, or partnership, or any dividends, savings, or
 11 profits accrued thereon, or anything of value whatsoever not
 12 specified in the contract. Nothing in this subdivision and
 13 subdivision (7) shall be construed as including within the
 14 definition of discrimination or rebates any of the following
 15 practices:

16 (A) Paying bonuses to policyholders or otherwise abating their
 17 premiums in whole or in part out of surplus accumulated from
 18 nonparticipating insurance, so long as any such bonuses or
 19 abatement of premiums are fair and equitable to policyholders
 20 and for the best interests of the company and its policyholders.

21 (B) In the case of life insurance policies issued on the
 22 industrial debit plan, making allowance to policyholders who
 23 have continuously for a specified period made premium
 24 payments directly to an office of the insurer in an amount
 25 which fairly represents the saving in collection expense.

26 (C) Readjustment of the rate of premium for a group insurance
 27 policy based on the loss or expense experience thereunder, at
 28 the end of the first year or of any subsequent year of insurance
 29 thereunder, which may be made retroactive only for such
 30 policy year.

31 (D) Paying by an insurer or agent thereof duly licensed as such
 32 under the laws of this state of money, commission, or
 33 brokerage, or giving or allowing by an insurer or such licensed
 34 agent thereof anything of value, for or on account of the
 35 solicitation or negotiation of policies or other contracts of any
 36 kind or kinds, to a broker, agent, or solicitor duly licensed
 37 under the laws of this state, but such broker, agent, or solicitor
 38 receiving such consideration shall not pay, give, or allow
 39 credit for such consideration as received in whole or in part,
 40 directly or indirectly, to the insured by way of rebate.

41 (9) Requiring, as a condition precedent to loaning money upon the
 42 security of a mortgage upon real property, that the owner of the

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1 property to whom the money is to be loaned negotiate any policy
2 of insurance covering such real property through a particular
3 insurance agent or broker or brokers. However, this subdivision
4 shall not prevent the exercise by any lender of its or his right to
5 approve or disapprove of the insurance company selected by the
6 borrower to underwrite the insurance.

7 (10) Entering into any contract, combination in the form of a trust
8 or otherwise, or conspiracy in restraint of commerce in the
9 business of insurance.

10 (11) Monopolizing or attempting to monopolize or combining or
11 conspiring with any other person or persons to monopolize any
12 part of commerce in the business of insurance. However,
13 participation as a member, director, or officer in the activities of
14 any nonprofit organization of agents or other workers in the
15 insurance business shall not be interpreted, in itself, to constitute
16 a combination in restraint of trade or as combining to create a
17 monopoly as provided in this subdivision and subdivision (10).
18 The enumeration in this chapter of specific unfair methods of
19 competition and unfair or deceptive acts and practices in the
20 business of insurance is not exclusive or restrictive or intended to
21 limit the powers of the commissioner or department or of any
22 court of review under section 8 of this chapter.

23 (12) Requiring as a condition precedent to the sale of real or
24 personal property under any contract of sale, conditional sales
25 contract, or other similar instrument or upon the security of a
26 chattel mortgage, that the buyer of such property negotiate any
27 policy of insurance covering such property through a particular
28 insurance company, agent, or broker or brokers. However, this
29 subdivision shall not prevent the exercise by any seller of such
30 property or the one making a loan thereon, of his, her, or its right
31 to approve or disapprove of the insurance company selected by
32 the buyer to underwrite the insurance.

33 (13) Issuing, offering, or participating in a plan to issue or offer,
34 any policy or certificate of insurance of any kind or character as
35 an inducement to the purchase of any property, real, personal, or
36 mixed, or services of any kind, where a charge to the insured is
37 not made for and on account of such policy or certificate of
38 insurance. However, this subdivision shall not apply to any of the
39 following:

40 (A) Insurance issued to credit unions or members of credit
41 unions in connection with the purchase of shares in such credit
42 unions.

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- 1 (B) Insurance employed as a means of guaranteeing the
 2 performance of goods and designed to benefit the purchasers
 3 or users of such goods.
 4 (C) Title insurance.
 5 (D) Insurance written in connection with an indebtedness and
 6 intended as a means of repaying such indebtedness in the
 7 event of the death or disability of the insured.
 8 (E) Insurance provided by or through motorists service clubs
 9 or associations.
 10 (F) Insurance that is provided to the purchaser or holder of an
 11 air transportation ticket and that:
 12 (i) insures against death or nonfatal injury that occurs during
 13 the flight to which the ticket relates;
 14 (ii) insures against personal injury or property damage that
 15 occurs during travel to or from the airport in a common
 16 carrier immediately before or after the flight;
 17 (iii) insures against baggage loss during the flight to which
 18 the ticket relates; or
 19 (iv) insures against a flight cancellation to which the ticket
 20 relates.
- 21 (14) Refusing, because of the for-profit status of a hospital or
 22 medical facility, to make payments otherwise required to be made
 23 under a contract or policy of insurance for charges incurred by an
 24 insured in such a for-profit hospital or other for-profit medical
 25 facility licensed by the state department of health.
- 26 (15) Refusing to insure an individual, refusing to continue to issue
 27 insurance to an individual, limiting the amount, extent, or kind of
 28 coverage available to an individual, or charging an individual a
 29 different rate for the same coverage, solely because of that
 30 individual's blindness or partial blindness, except where the
 31 refusal, limitation, or rate differential is based on sound actuarial
 32 principles or is related to actual or reasonably anticipated
 33 experience.
- 34 (16) Committing or performing, with such frequency as to
 35 indicate a general practice, unfair claim settlement practices (as
 36 defined in section 4.5 of this chapter).
- 37 (17) Between policy renewal dates, unilaterally canceling an
 38 individual's coverage under an individual or group health
 39 insurance policy solely because of the individual's medical or
 40 physical condition.
- 41 (18) Using a policy form or rider that would permit a cancellation
 42 of coverage as described in subdivision (17).

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- 1 (19) Violating IC 27-1-22-25 or IC 27-1-22-26 concerning motor
- 2 vehicle insurance rates.
- 3 (20) Violating IC 27-8-21-2 concerning advertisements referring
- 4 to interest rate guarantees.
- 5 (21) Violating IC 27-8-24.3 concerning insurance and health plan
- 6 coverage for victims of abuse.
- 7 (22) Violating IC 27-1-15.5-3(h).
- 8 (23) Violating IC 27-8-26 concerning genetic screening or testing.
- 9 **(24) Violating IC 27-2-20 concerning automobile insurance**
- 10 **coverage or homeowners insurance coverage for victims or**
- 11 **potential victims of abuse.**

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