

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 1273

By: Perry of the House

and

Maddox of the Senate

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to insurance; amending 36 O.S. 2001, Section 1250.8, which relates to the Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act; requiring payment to claimant under certain circumstances; requiring inclusion of certain parties when specified payments are made; amending 36 O.S. 2001, Section 1612, as amended by Section 24, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 2002 (36 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1612), which relates to investments of domestic insurers; broadening types of equipment and machines permitted for investment; amending 36 O.S. 2001, Section 4803, which relates to fire insurance; providing for variations in terms and conditions of standard fire insurance policy after approval from Insurance Commissioner; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2001, Section 1250.8, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1250.8 A. If an insurance policy or insurance contract provides for the adjustment and settlement of first party motor vehicle total losses, on the basis of actual cash value or replacement with another of like kind and quality, one of the following methods shall apply:

1. An insurer may elect to offer a replacement motor vehicle which is a specific comparable motor vehicle available to the insured, with all applicable taxes, license fees, and other fees incident to the transfer of evidence of ownership of the motor vehicle paid, at no cost to the insured other than any deductible

provided in the policy. The offer and any rejection thereof shall be documented in the claim file; or

2. An insured may elect a cash settlement based upon the actual cost, less any deductible provided in the policy, to purchase a comparable motor vehicle, including all applicable taxes, license fees and other fees incident to a transfer of evidence of ownership, or a comparable motor vehicle. Such cost may be determined by:

- a. the cost of a comparable motor vehicle in the local market area when a comparable motor vehicle is available in the local market area,
- b. one of two or more quotations obtained by an insurer from two or more qualified dealers located within the local market area when a comparable motor vehicle is not available in the local market area, or
- c. the cost of a comparable motor vehicle as quoted in the latest edition of the National Automobile Dealers Association Official Used Car Guide or monthly edition of any other nationally recognized published guidebook.

B. If a first party motor vehicle total loss is settled on a basis which deviates from the methods described in subsection A of this section, the deviation shall be supported by documentation giving particulars of the condition of the motor vehicle. Any deductions from such cost, including, but not limited to, deduction for salvage, shall be measurable, discernible, itemized and specified as to dollar amount and shall be appropriate in amount. The basis for such settlement shall be fully explained to a first party claimant.

C. If liability for motor vehicle damages is reasonably clear, insurers shall not recommend that third party claimants make claims pursuant to the third party claimants' own policies solely to avoid

paying claims pursuant to such insurer's insurance policy or insurance contract.

D. Insurers shall not require a claimant to travel unreasonably either to inspect a replacement motor vehicle, obtain a repair estimate or have the motor vehicle repaired at a specific repair shop.

E. Insurers shall, upon the request of a claimant, include the deductible of a first party claimant, if any, in subrogation demands. Subrogation recoveries shall be shared on a proportionate basis with a first party claimant, unless the deductible amount has been otherwise recovered. No deduction for expenses shall be made from a deductible recovery unless an outside attorney is retained to collect such recovery. The deduction shall then be made for only a pro rata share of the allocated loss adjustment expense.

F. If an insurer prepares an estimate of the cost of automobile repairs, such estimate shall be in an amount for which it reasonably may be expected that the damage can be repaired satisfactorily. An insurer shall give a copy of an estimate to a claimant and may furnish to the claimant the names of one or more conveniently located repair shops, if requested by the claimant.

G. If an amount claimed is reduced because of betterment or depreciation, all information for such reduction shall be contained in the claim file. Such deductions shall be itemized and specified as to dollar amount and shall be appropriate for the amount of deductions.

H. An insurer or its representative shall not require a claimant to obtain motor vehicle repairs at a specific repair facility. An insurer or its representative shall not require a claimant to obtain motor vehicle glass repair or replacement at a specific motor vehicle glass repair or replacement facility. An insurer shall fully and promptly pay for the cost of the motor vehicle repair services or products, less any applicable deductible

amount payable according to the terms of the policy. The claimant shall be furnished an itemized priced statement of repairs by the repair facility at the time of acceptance of the repaired motor vehicle. Unless a cash settlement is made, if a claimant selects a motor vehicle repair or motor vehicle glass repair or replacement facility, the insurer shall provide payment to the facility or claimant based on a competitive price, as established by that insurer through market surveys or by the insured through competitive bids at the insured's option, to determine a fair and reasonable market price for similar services. Reasonable deviation from this market price is allowed based on the facts in each case.

I. An insurer shall not use as a basis for cash settlement with a first party claimant an amount which is less than the amount which an insurer would pay if repairs were made, other than in total loss situations, unless such amount is agreed to by the insured.

J. An insurer shall not force a claimant to execute a full settlement release in order to settle a property damage claim involving a personal injury.

K. All payment or satisfaction of a claim for a motor vehicle which has been transferred by title to the insurer shall be paid by check or draft, payable on demand.

L. In the event of payment of a total loss to a third party claimant, the insurer shall include any registered lien holder as copayee to the extent of the lienholder's interest.

M. As used in this section, "total loss" means that the vehicle repair costs plus the salvage value of the vehicle meets or exceeds the actual cash value of the motor vehicle prior to the loss, as provided in used automobile dealer guidebooks.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2001, Section 1612, as amended by Section 24, Chapter 307, O.S.L. 2002 (36 O.S. Supp. 2002, Section 1612), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1612. Any domestic company, in addition to the investments permitted by this article, may invest in ~~electronic machines constituting a data processing system, or systems, and other office equipment, furniture and machines, and such other property, machines and equipment heretofore or hereafter purchased for use in connection with the data processing of the transaction of the business of an insurance company~~ Electronic Data Processing Equipment (EDP) and software and may further invest in property, which shall not be included in calculating the limitation of Section 1624, used for recreational, hospitalization, convalescent and/or retirement purposes for its employees, to the extent that the total market value of all such property, which shall be depreciated ~~over its useful life in accordance with standard accounting procedures, constitutes less than three per cent of its otherwise admitted assets~~ for a period not to exceed three (3) years and shall be limited to three percent (3%) of the reporting entity's capital and surplus as of the most recently filed statement with the Commissioner, adjusted to exclude EDP equipment and software, property used for recreational, hospitalization, convalescent and/or retirement purposes for employees and any net deferred tax assets. Electronic Data Processing Equipment (EDP) and software includes mainframes, terminals, PC based systems, supporting hardware and equipment, and operating systems software. Nonoperating system software is a nonadmitted asset.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 36 O.S. 2001, Section 4803, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4803. A. The printed form of a policy of fire insurance as set forth in subsection G of this section shall be known and designated as the standard fire insurance policy to be used in the State of Oklahoma.

B. Except as provided in subsection F of this section, no policy or contract of fire insurance shall be made, issued or

delivered by any insurer or by any agent or representative thereof, on any property in the state, unless it shall conform as to all provisions, stipulations, agreements and conditions, with such form of policy.

There shall be printed at the head of said policy the name of the insurer or insurers issuing the policy; the location of the home office or United States Office thereof; a statement as to whether said insurer or insurers are stock or mutual corporations or are reciprocal insurers or Lloyd's underwriters; and there may be added to the policy such device or devices as the insurer or insurers issuing said policy shall desire. Any company organized under special charter provisions may so indicate upon its policy, and may add to the policy a statement of the plan under which it operates in this state.

If the policy is issued by a mutual, cooperative or reciprocal insurer having special regulations with respect to the payment by the policyholder of assessments, such regulations shall be made a part of the policy, and any such insurer may print upon the policy such regulations as may be appropriate to or required by its home state or its form of organization.

There may also be added a statement of the group insurers with which the insurer is financially affiliated.

In lieu of the facsimile signatures of the president and secretary of the insurer there may be used the name or names of such officers or managers as are authorized to execute the contract.

C. Appropriate forms of additional contracts, riders or endorsements, insuring against indirect or consequential loss or damage or against any one or more perils other than those of fire and lightning, or providing coverage which the insurer issuing the policy is authorized by charter and by the laws of this state to assume or issue, may be issued in connection with the standard fire policy.

Such other perils or coverages may include those excluded in the standard fire insurance policy, and may include any of the perils or coverages permitted to be insured against or issued by property and casualty insurers. Such forms of contracts, riders and endorsements may contain provisions and stipulations inconsistent with such standard fire insurance policy, if said provisions and stipulations are applicable only to such additional coverage or to the additional peril or perils insured against.

D. Provisions to be contained on the first page of the policy may be rewritten, supplemented, or rearranged to facilitate policy issuance and to include matter which may otherwise properly be added by endorsement.

The pages of the standard fire insurance policy may be renumbered and the format rearranged for convenience in the preparation of individual contracts, and to provide space for the listing of rates and premiums for coverages insured hereunder or under endorsements attached or printed thereon, and such other data as may be conveniently included for duplication on daily reports for office records.

E. There may be printed upon the standard fire policy the words "Standard Fire Insurance Policy for Oklahoma", and there may be inserted before and after the word "Oklahoma" a designation of any state or states in which such form of policy is standard.

There may be endorsed on any such policy the name, with the word "agent" or "agents" and place of business, or any insurance agent or agents either by writing, printing, stamping or otherwise.

F. ~~1. The Insurance Commissioner may approve for use within the state a form of policy which does not correspond to the standard fire insurance policy as provided by this section, if the coverage of said approved policy form with respect to the peril of fire shall not be less than that contained in the standard fire insurance policy as provided in this section.~~

~~2. When any policy issued under this article shall contain a deductible clause or provision, such fact shall be stamped on the policy in prominent letters~~

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Insurance Commissioner may approve for use within the state any form of policy with variations in terms and conditions from the standard fire insurance policy provided for in this section.

G. The form of the standard fire insurance policy, with permission to substitute for the word "company" a more accurate descriptive term for the type of insurer, shall be as follows:

(FIRST PAGE OF) STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE POLICY

NO.

(Space for insertion of name of company or companies issuing the policy and other matter permitted to be stated at the head of the policy.)

(Space for listing amounts of insurance, rates and premiums for the basic coverages insured under the standard form of policy and for additional coverages or perils insured under endorsements attached.)

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONS AND STIPULATIONS HEREIN OR ADDED HERETO AND OF the premium above specified, this Company, for the term of

from

at Noon (Standard Time) to at Noon (Standard Time)

at location of property involved, to an amount not exceeding the amount(s) above specified, does insure and legal representatives, to the extent of the actual cash value of the property at the time of loss, but not exceeding the amount which it would cost to repair or replace the property with material of like kind and quality within a reasonable time after such loss, without allowance for any increased cost of repair or reconstruction by reason of any ordinance or law regulating construction or repair, and without compensation for loss resulting from interruption of

business or manufacture, nor in any event for more than the interest of the insured, against all DIRECT LOSS BY FIRE, LIGHTNING AND BY REMOVAL FROM PREMISES ENDANGERED BY THE PERILS INSURED AGAINST IN THIS POLICY, EXCEPT AS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED, to the property described hereinafter while located or contained as described in this policy, or pro rata for five days at each proper place to which any of the property shall necessarily be removed for preservation from the perils insured against in this policy, but not elsewhere.

Assignment of this policy shall not be valid except with the written consent of this Company.

This policy is made and accepted subject to the foregoing provisions and stipulations and those hereinafter stated, which are hereby made a part of this policy, together with such other provisions, stipulations and agreements as may be added hereto, as provided in this policy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Company has executed and attested these presents; but this policy shall not be valid unless countersigned by the duly authorized Agent of this Company at

Signature of proper officer or officers.

Countersigned this _____ day of _____, 19 _____

Agent.

(SECOND PAGE OF) STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE POLICY

Concealment, fraud. This entire policy shall be void if, whether before or after a loss, the insured has willfully concealed or misrepresented any material fact or circumstance concerning this insurance or the subject thereof, or the interest of the insured therein, or in case of any fraud or false swearing by the insured relating thereto.

Uninsurable and excepted property. This policy shall not cover accounts, bills, currency, deeds, evidences of debt, money or

securities; nor, unless specifically named hereon in writing, bullion or manuscripts.

Perils not included. This Company shall not be liable for loss by fire or other perils insured against in this policy caused, directly or indirectly, by: (a) enemy attack by armed forces, including action taken by military, naval or air forces in resisting an actual or an immediately impending enemy attack; (b) invasion; (c) insurrection; (d) rebellion; (e) revolution; (f) civil war; (g) usurped power; (h) order of any civil authority except acts of destruction at the time of and for the purpose of preventing the spread of fire, provided that such fire did not originate from any of the perils excluded by this policy; (i) neglect of the insured to use all reasonable means to save and preserve the property at and after a loss, or when the property is endangered by fire in neighboring premises; (j) nor shall this Company be liable for loss by theft.

Other Insurance. Other Insurance may be prohibited or the amount of insurance may be limited by endorsement attached hereto.

Conditions suspending or restricting insurance. Unless otherwise provided in writing added hereto this Company shall not be liable for loss occurring

(a) while the hazard is increased by any means within the control or knowledge of the insured; or

(b) while a described building, whether intended for occupancy by owner or tenant, is vacant or unoccupied beyond a period of sixty consecutive days; or

(c) as a result of explosion or riot, unless fire ensues, and in that event for loss by fire only.

Other perils or subjects. Any other peril to be insured against or subject of insurance to be covered in this policy shall be by endorsement in writing hereon or added hereto.

Added provisions. The extent of the application of insurance under this policy and of the contribution to be made by this Company in case of loss, and any other provision or agreement not inconsistent with the provisions of this policy, may be provided for in writing added hereto, but no provision may be waived except such as by the terms of this policy is subject to change.

Waiver provisions. No permission affecting this insurance shall exist, or waiver of any provision be valid, unless granted herein or expressed in writing added hereto. No provision, stipulation or forfeiture shall be held to be waived by any requirement or proceeding on the part of this Company relating to appraisal or to any examination provided for herein.

Cancellation of policy. This policy shall be canceled at any time at the request of the insured, in which case this Company shall, upon demand and surrender of this policy refund the excess of paid premium above the customary short rates for the expired time. This policy may be canceled at any time by this Company by giving to the insured a five days' written notice of cancellation with or without tender of the excess of paid premium above the pro rata premium for the expired time, which excess, if not tendered shall be refunded on demand. Notice of cancellation shall state that said excess premium (if not tendered) will be refunded on demand.

Mortgagee interests and obligations. If loss hereunder is made payable, in whole or in part, to a designated mortgagee not named herein as the insured, such interest in this policy may be canceled by giving such mortgagee a ten days' written notice of cancellation.

If the insured fails to render proof of loss such mortgagee, upon notice, shall render proof of loss in the form herein specified within sixty (60) days after, and shall be subject to the provisions hereof relating to appraisal and time of payment and of bringing suit. If this Company shall claim that no liability existed as to the mortgagor or owner, it shall, to the extent of payment of loss

to the mortgagee, be subrogated to all the mortgagee's rights of recovery, but without impairing mortgagee's right to sue, or it may pay off the mortgage debt and require an assignment thereof and of the mortgage. Other provisions relating to the interests and obligations of such mortgagee may be added hereto by agreement in writing.

Pro rata liability. This Company shall not be liable for a greater proportion of any loss than the amount hereby insured shall bear to the whole insurance covering the property against the peril involved, whether collectible or not.

Requirements in case loss occurs. The insured shall give immediate written notice to this Company of any loss, protect the property from further damage, forthwith separate the damaged and undamaged personal property, put it in the best possible order, furnish a complete inventory of the destroyed, damaged and undamaged property, showing in detail quantities, costs, actual cash value and amount of loss claimed; and within sixty days after the loss, unless such time is extended in writing by the Company, the insured shall render to this Company a proof of loss, signed and sworn to by the insured, stating the knowledge and belief of the insured as to the following: the time and origin of the loss, the interest of the insured and of all others in the property, the actual cash value of each item thereof and the amount of loss thereto, all encumbrances thereon, all other contracts of insurance, whether valid or not, covering any of said property, any changes in the title, use, occupation, location, possession or exposures of said property since the issuing of this policy, by whom and for what purpose any building herein described and the several parts thereof were occupied at the time of loss and whether or not it then stood on leased ground, and shall furnish a copy of all the descriptions and schedules in all policies and, if required, verified plans and specifications of any building, fixtures or machinery destroyed or

damaged. The insured, as often as may be reasonably required, shall exhibit to any person designated by this Company all that remains of any property herein described, and submit to examinations under oath by any person named by this Company, and subscribe the same, and as often as may be reasonably required, shall produce for examination all books of account, bills, invoices and other vouchers or certified copies thereof if originals be lost, at such reasonable time and place as may be designated by this Company or its representative, and shall permit extracts and copies thereof to be made.

Appraisal. In case the insured and this Company shall fail to agree as to the actual cash value or the amount of loss, then, on the written demand of either, each shall select a competent and disinterested appraiser and notify the other of the appraiser selected within twenty (20) days of such demand. The appraisers shall first select a competent and disinterested umpire; and failing for fifteen (15) days to agree upon such umpire, then, on request of the insured or this Company, after notice of hearing to the nonrequesting party by certified mail, such umpire shall be selected by a judge of a district court in the county where the loss occurred. The appraisers shall then appraise the loss, stating separately actual cash value and loss to each item, and, failing to agree, shall submit their differences, only, to the umpire. An award in writing, so itemized, of any two when filed with this Company shall determine the amount of actual cash value and loss. Each appraiser shall be paid by the party selecting him and the expenses of appraisal and umpire shall be paid by the parties equally.

Company's option. It shall be optional with this Company to take all, or any part, of the property at the agreed or appraised value, and also to repair, rebuild or replace the property destroyed or damaged with other of like kind and quality within a reasonable

time, on giving notice of its intention so to do within thirty days after the receipt of the proof of loss herein required.

Abandonment. There can be no abandonment to this Company of any property.

When loss payable. The amount of loss for which this Company may be liable shall be payable sixty days after proof of loss, as herein provided, is received by this Company and ascertainment of the loss is made either by agreement between the insured and this Company expressed in writing or by the filing with this Company of an award as herein provided.

Suit. No suit or action on this policy for the recovery of any claim shall be sustainable in any court of law or equity unless all the requirements of this policy shall have been complied with, and unless commenced within twelve months next after inception of the loss.

Subrogation. This Company may require from the insured an assignment of all right of recovery against any party for loss to the extent that payment therefor is made by this Company.

(THIRD PAGE OF) STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE POLICY

ATTACH FORMS BELOW THIS LINE

(BACK OF STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE POLICY)

Expires _____

Property _____

Total

Amount \$ _____ Premiums \$ _____

Insured _____

SEE INSIDE OF POLICY FOR

PERILS COVERED

No. _____

(COMPANY)

It is important that the written portions of all policies covering the same property read exactly alike. If they do not, they should be made uniform at once.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2003.

49-1-6936 DLW 05/13/03