

Act No. 143
Public Acts of 2001
Approved by the Governor
October 26, 2001
Filed with the Secretary of State
October 26, 2001
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 26, 2001

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2001**

Introduced by Rep. Julian

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4819

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 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 repeal acts and parts of acts; and to provide penalties for the violation of this act," by amending section 224 (MCL 500.224), as amended by 2000 PA 252; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 224. (1) All actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the examination or other investigation of an insurer or other person regulated under the commissioner's authority shall be certified by the commissioner, together with a statement of the work performed including the number of days spent by the commissioner and each of the commissioner's deputies, assistants, employees, and others acting under the commissioner's authority. If correct, the expenses shall be paid to the persons by whom they were incurred, upon the warrant of the state treasurer payable from appropriations made by the legislature for this purpose.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), the commissioner shall prepare and present to the insurer or other person examined or investigated a statement of the expenses and reasonable cost incurred for each person engaged upon the examination or investigation, including amounts necessary to cover the pay and allowances granted to the persons by the Michigan civil service commission, and the administration and supervisory expense including an amount necessary to cover fringe benefits in conjunction with the examination or investigation. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), the insurer or other person, upon receiving the statement, shall pay to the commissioner the stated amount. The commissioner shall deposit the funds with the state treasurer as provided in section 225.

(3) The commissioner may employ attorneys, actuaries, accountants, investment advisers, and other expert personnel not otherwise employees of this state reasonably necessary to assist in the conduct of the examination or investigation or proceeding with respect to an insurer or other person regulated under the commissioner's authority at the insurer's or other person's expense except as otherwise provided in subsection (4). Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), upon certification by the commissioner of the reasonable expenses incurred under this section, the insurer or other person examined or investigated shall pay those expenses directly to the person or firm rendering assistance to the commissioner. Expenses paid directly to such person or firm and the regulatory fees imposed by this section shall be examination expenses under section 22e of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.22e.

(4) An insurer is subject to a regulatory fee instead of the costs and expenses provided for in subsections (2) and (3). By June 30 of each year or within 30 days after the enactment into law of any appropriation for the insurance bureau's operation, the commissioner shall impose upon all insurers authorized to do business in this state a regulatory fee calculated as follows:

(a) As used in this subsection:

(i) "A" means total annuity considerations written in this state in the immediately preceding year.

(ii) "B" means base assessment rate. The base assessment rate shall not exceed .00038 and shall be a fraction the numerator of which is the total regulatory fee and the denominator of which is the total amount of direct underwritten premiums written in this state by all insurers for the immediately preceding calendar year as reported to the commissioner on the insurer's annual statements filed with the commissioner.

(iii) "I" means all direct underwritten premiums other than life insurance premiums and annuity considerations written in this state in the immediately preceding year by all insurers.

(iv) "L" means all direct underwritten life insurance premiums written in this state in the immediately preceding year by all life insurers.

(v) Total regulatory fee shall not exceed 80% of the gross appropriations for the insurance bureau's operation for a fiscal year and shall be the difference between the gross appropriations for the insurance bureau's operation for that current fiscal year and any restricted revenues, other than the regulatory fee itself, as identified in the gross appropriation for the insurance bureau's operation.

(vi) Direct premiums written in this state do not include any amounts that represent claims payments that are made on behalf of, or administrative fees that are paid in connection with, any administrative service contract, cost-plus arrangement, or any other noninsured or self-insured business.

(b) Two actual assessment rates shall be calculated so as to distribute 75% of the burden of the regulatory fee shortfall created by the exclusion of annuity considerations from the assessment base to life insurance and 25% to all other insurance. The 2 actual assessment rates shall be determined as follows:

(i)
$$\frac{L \times B + .75 \times B \times A}{L} = \text{assessment rate for life insurance.}$$

(ii)
$$\frac{I \times B + .25 \times B \times A}{I} = \text{assessment rate for insurance other than life insurance.}$$

(c) Each insurer's regulatory fee shall be a minimum fee of \$250.00 and shall be determined by multiplying the actual assessment rate by the assessment base of that insurer as determined by the commissioner from the insurer's annual statement for the immediately preceding calendar year filed with the commissioner.

(5) Not less than 67% of the revenue derived from the regulatory fee under subsection (4) shall be used for the regulation of financial conduct of persons regulated under the commissioner's authority and for the regulation of persons regulated under the commissioner's authority engaged in the business of health care and health insurance in this state.

(6) The amount, if any, by which amounts credited to the commissioner pursuant to section 225 exceed actual expenditures pursuant to appropriations for the insurance bureau's operation for a fiscal year shall be credited toward the appropriation for the insurance bureau in the next fiscal year.

(7) All money paid into the state treasury by an insurer under this section shall be credited as provided under section 225.

(8) A regulatory fee under this section shall not be treated by an insurer as a levy or excise upon premium but as a regulatory burden that is apportioned in relation to insurance activity in this state and reflects the insurance regulatory burden on this state as a result of this insurance activity. A foreign or alien insurer authorized to do business in this

state may consider the liability required under this section as a burden imposed by this state in the calculation of the insurer's liability required under section 476a.

(9) An insurer may file with the commissioner a protest to the regulatory fee imposed not later than 15 days after receipt of the regulatory fee. The commissioner shall review the grounds for the protest and shall hold a conference with the insurer at the insurer's request. The commissioner shall transmit his or her findings to the insurer with a restatement of the regulatory fee based upon the findings. Statements of regulatory fees to which protests have not been made and restatements of regulatory fees are due and shall be paid not later than 30 days after their receipt. Regulatory fees that are not paid when due bear interest on the unpaid fee which shall be calculated at 6-month intervals from the date the fee was due at a rate of interest equal to 1% plus the average interest rate paid at auctions of 5-year United States treasury notes during the 6 months immediately preceding July 1 and January 1, as certified by the state treasurer, and compounded annually, until the assessment is paid in full. An insurer who fails to pay its regulatory fee within the prescribed time limits may have its certificate of authority or license suspended, limited, or revoked as the commissioner considers warranted until the regulatory fee is paid. If the commissioner determines that a regulatory fee or a part of a regulatory fee paid by an insurer is in excess of the amount legally due and payable, the amount of the excess shall be refunded or, at the insurer's option, be applied as a credit against the regulatory fee for the next fiscal year. An overpayment of \$100.00 or less shall be applied as a credit against the insurer's regulatory fee for the next fiscal year unless the insurer had a \$100.00 or less overpayment in the immediately preceding fiscal year. If the insurer had a \$100.00 or less overpayment in the immediately preceding fiscal year, at the insurer's option, the current fiscal year overpayment of \$100.00 or less shall be refunded.

(10) Any amounts stated and presented to or certified, assessed, or imposed upon an insurer as provided in subsections (2), (3), and (4) that are unpaid as of the date that the insurer is subjected to a delinquency proceeding pursuant to chapter 81 shall be regarded as an expense of administering the delinquency proceeding and shall be payable as such from the general assets of the insurer.

(11) In addition to the regulatory fee provided in subsection (4), each insurer that locates records or personnel knowledgeable about those records outside this state pursuant to section 476a(3) or section 5256 shall reimburse the insurance bureau for expenses and reasonable costs incurred by the insurance bureau as a result of travel and other costs related to examinations or investigations of those records or personnel. The reimbursement shall not include any costs that the insurance bureau would have incurred if the examination had taken place in this state.

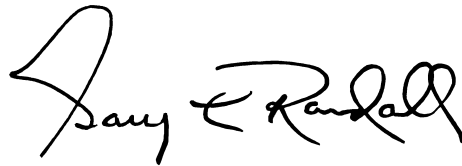
(12) As used in this section:

(a) "Annuity considerations" means receipts on the sale of annuities as used in section 22a of the single business tax act, 1975 PA 228, MCL 208.22a.

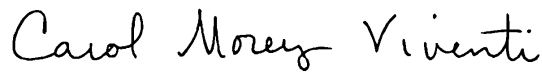
(b) "Insurer" means an insurer authorized to do business in this state and includes nonprofit health care corporations, dental care corporations, and health maintenance organizations.

Enacting section 1. Section 8160 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.8160, is repealed.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives.



Secretary of the Senate.

Approved

Governor.