

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 498

Short Title: Depopulate Reinsurance Facility/Opt. Enhnts. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Collins, Jeter, Pendleton, and Warren (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Insurance.

April 2, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REDUCE THE EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA DRIVERS INSURED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA REINSURANCE FACILITY BY PROVIDING FOR FILE AND USE RATE DEVIATIONS FOR AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE, BY PROVIDING A TWO-YEAR PHASEOUT OF THE "CLEAN RISK" SUBCLASSIFICATION WITHIN THE REINSURANCE FACILITY, AND BY ALLOWING INSURANCE COMPANIES WRITING PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE IN NORTH CAROLINA TO OFFER OPTIONAL PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 58-36-30 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 58-36-30. Deviations.**

(a) Except as permitted by G.S. 58-36-100 for workers' compensation loss costs filings, or subsection (e) of this section for nonfleet private passenger motor vehicle liability insurance, no insurer and no officer, agent, or representative of an insurer shall knowingly issue or deliver or knowingly permit the issuance or delivery of any policy of insurance in this State that does not conform to the rates, rating plans, classifications, schedules, rules and standards made and filed by the Bureau. An insurer may deviate from the rates promulgated by the Bureau if the insurer has filed the proposed deviation with the Bureau and the Commissioner, if the proposed deviation is based on sound actuarial principles, and if the proposed deviation is approved by the Commissioner. Amendments to deviations are subject to the same requirements as initial filings. An insurer may terminate a deviation only if the deviation has been in effect for a period of six months before the effective date of the termination and the insurer notifies the Commissioner of the termination no later than 15 days before the effective date of the termination.

...

(e) The provisions of this subsection apply only to the setting of rates for nonfleet private passenger motor vehicle liability insurance. An insurer may deviate from the rates promulgated by the Bureau if the insurer has filed the proposed deviation with the Bureau and the Commissioner and if the proposed deviation is based on sound actuarial principles. Rate deviations shall take effect upon filing. The Commissioner may disapprove a deviation filing submitted under this section only if the Commissioner determines that the filing is excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. Deviations above the Bureau rate up to the applicable rates established for risks ceded to the Reinsurance Facility shall be presumed not to be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. If, after a hearing, the Commissioner



1 disapproves a deviation filing, the Commissioner shall issue a written order specifying in detail  
2 the reasons the filing is excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory and stating a  
3 reasonable future date on which the filing is to be considered no longer effective. An order by  
4 the Commissioner pursuant to this subsection is prospective only and does not affect any policy  
5 that takes effect or is delivered before the effective date of the order, even if the effective date  
6 of the policy is subsequent to the effective date of the order. Amendments to deviations are  
7 subject to the same requirements as initial filings. An insurer may terminate a deviation only if  
8 the deviation has been in effect for a period of six months before the effective date of the  
9 termination and the insurer notifies the Commissioner of the termination no later than 15 days  
10 before the effective date of the termination."

11 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 58-37-35 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 58-37-35. The Facility; functions; administration.**

13 ...

14 (l) The classifications, rules, rates, rating plans and policy forms used on motor vehicle  
15 insurance policies reinsured by the Facility may be made by the Facility or by any licensed or  
16 statutory statistical organization or bureau on its behalf and shall be filed with the  
17 Commissioner. The Board of Governors shall establish a separate subclassification within the  
18 Facility for "clean risks". For the purpose of this Article, a "clean risk" is any owner of a  
19 nonfleet private passenger motor vehicle as defined in G.S. 58-40-10, if the owner, principal  
20 operator, and each licensed operator in the owner's household have two years' driving  
21 experience as licensed drivers and if none of the persons has been assigned any Safe Driver  
22 Incentive Plan points under Article 36 of this Chapter during the three-year period immediately  
23 preceding either (i) the date of application for a motor vehicle insurance policy or (ii) the date  
24 of preparation of a renewal of a motor vehicle insurance policy. The filings may incorporate by  
25 reference any other material on file with the Commissioner. Rates shall be neither excessive,  
26 inadequate nor unfairly discriminatory. If the Commissioner finds, after a hearing, that a rate is  
27 either excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory, the Commissioner shall issue an order  
28 specifying in what respect it is deficient and stating when, within a reasonable period thereafter,  
29 the rate is no longer effective. The order is subject to judicial review as set out in Article 2 of  
30 this Chapter. Pending judicial review of said order, the filed classification plan and the filed  
31 rates may be used, charged and collected in the same manner as set out in G.S. 58-40-45 of this  
32 Chapter. The order shall not affect any contract or policy made or issued before the expiration  
33 of the period set forth in the order. All rates shall be on an actuarially sound basis and shall be  
34 calculated, insofar as is possible, to produce neither a profit nor a loss. However, the rates made  
35 by or on behalf of the Facility with respect to "clean risks" shall not exceed the rates charged  
36 "clean risks" who are not reinsured in the Facility. The Facility, except that rates for "clean  
37 risks" on policies reinsured by the Facility that become effective on or after January 1, 2016,  
38 shall be established on a schedule that provides that any difference between rates charged for  
39 "clean risks" reinsured in the Facility on policies becoming effective immediately prior to  
40 January 1, 2016, and the actuarially sound rate for all risks reinsured by the Facility shall be  
41 eliminated over a two-year period ending on December 31, 2018. Any difference between the  
42 actual rate charged and the actuarially sound and self-supporting rates for "clean risks"  
43 reinsured in the Facility may be recouped in similar manner as assessments under  
44 G.S. 58-37-40(f). Rates shall not include any factor for underwriting profit on Facility business,  
45 but shall provide an allowance for contingencies. There shall be a strong presumption that the  
46 rates and premiums for the business of the Facility are neither unreasonable nor excessive.

47 ...."

48 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 58-37-35, as rewritten by subsection (a) of this section, reads  
49 as rewritten:

50 **"§ 58-37-35. The Facility; functions; administration.**

51 ...

1 (l) The classifications, rules, rates, rating plans and policy forms used on motor vehicle  
2 insurance policies reinsured by the Facility may be made by the Facility or by any licensed or  
3 statutory statistical organization or bureau on its behalf and shall be filed with the  
4 Commissioner. ~~The Board of Governors shall establish a separate subclassification within the~~  
5 ~~Facility for "clean risks". For the purpose of this Article, a "clean risk" is any owner of a~~  
6 ~~nonfleet private passenger motor vehicle as defined in G.S. 58-40-10, if the owner, principal~~  
7 ~~operator, and each licensed operator in the owner's household have two years' driving~~  
8 ~~experience as licensed drivers and if none of the persons has been assigned any Safe Driver~~  
9 ~~Incentive Plan points under Article 36 of this Chapter during the three year period immediately~~  
10 ~~preceding either (i) the date of application for a motor vehicle insurance policy or (ii) the date~~  
11 ~~of preparation of a renewal of a motor vehicle insurance policy. The filings may incorporate by~~  
12 ~~reference any other material on file with the Commissioner. Rates shall be neither excessive,~~  
13 ~~inadequate nor unfairly discriminatory. If the Commissioner finds, after a hearing, that a rate is~~  
14 ~~either excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory, the Commissioner shall issue an order~~  
15 ~~specifying in what respect it is deficient and stating when, within a reasonable period thereafter,~~  
16 ~~the rate is no longer effective. The order is subject to judicial review as set out in Article 2 of~~  
17 ~~this Chapter. Pending judicial review of said order, the filed classification plan and the filed~~  
18 ~~rates may be used, charged and collected in the same manner as set out in G.S. 58-40-45 of this~~  
19 ~~Chapter. The order shall not affect any contract or policy made or issued before the expiration~~  
20 ~~of the period set forth in the order. All rates shall be on an actuarially sound basis and shall be~~  
21 ~~calculated, insofar as is possible, to produce neither a profit nor a loss. However, the rates made~~  
22 ~~by or on behalf of the Facility with respect to "clean risks" shall not exceed the rates charged~~  
23 ~~"clean risks" who are not reinsured in the Facility, except that rates for "clean risks" on policies~~  
24 ~~reinsured by the Facility that become effective on or after January 1, 2016, shall be established~~  
25 ~~on a schedule that provides that any difference between rates charged for "clean risks"~~  
26 ~~reinsured in the Facility on policies becoming effective immediately prior to January 1, 2016,~~  
27 ~~and the actuarially sound rate for all risks reinsured by the Facility shall be eliminated over a~~  
28 ~~two year period ending on December 31, 2018. Any difference between the actual rate charged~~  
29 ~~and the actuarially sound and self-supporting rates for "clean risks" reinsured in the Facility~~  
30 ~~may be recouped in similar manner as assessments under G.S. 58-37-40(f). Rates shall not~~  
31 ~~include any factor for underwriting profit on Facility business, but shall provide an allowance~~  
32 ~~for contingencies. There shall be a strong presumption that the rates and premiums for the~~  
33 ~~business of the Facility are neither unreasonable nor excessive.~~

34 ...."

35 **SECTION 3.** Article 36 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by  
36 adding a new section to read:

37 **"§ 58-36-43. Private passenger automobile optional program enhancements authorized**  
38 **not altering coverage under Rate Bureau jurisdiction.**

39 (a) Member companies writing private passenger automobile insurance under this  
40 Article may incorporate optional enhancements to their automobile programs as an  
41 endorsement to an automobile policy issued under this Article if the insurer has filed the  
42 proposed enhancement with the Commissioner and if the proposed enhancement is approved by  
43 the Commissioner. Any approved optional enhancements shall be considered outside the  
44 authority of the Rate Bureau. If the proposed enhancement will include an additional premium  
45 charge, the proposed premium charge shall be included with the proposed program  
46 enhancements filed with the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall review the proposed  
47 premium charges and approve them if the Commissioner finds that they are based on sound  
48 actuarial principles. Amendments to private passenger automobile program enhancements are  
49 subject to the same requirements as initial filings. Neither the acceptance, renewal of a policy,  
50 nor any underwriting rating criteria shall be conditioned by a company upon the acceptance by  
51 the policyholder of any optional automobile enhancements. A rate amendment authorized by

1 this section is not a rate deviation and is not subject to the requirements for rate deviations set  
2 forth in G.S. 58-36-30(a).

3 (b) Any premiums, expenses, or losses associated with individual company automobile  
4 program enhancements shall not be submitted by the member companies to their statistical  
5 organization for inclusion with the data required by the Rate Bureau for rate-making purposes.  
6 Insurers shall utilize a statistical code for reporting premiums and losses resulting from  
7 program enhancements filed under this section and shall advise the Department as to the  
8 location in the annual statement where this code will be reported."

9 **SECTION 4.** Section 2(a) of this act becomes effective January 1, 2016. Section  
10 2(b) of this act becomes effective January 1, 2018. The remainder of this act becomes effective  
11 July 1, 2015.