

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 1007

Short Title: Clarify Oversight Authority/Auto Appraisers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Torbett, Iler, Presnell, and Shepard (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Transportation

May 28, 2018

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLE APPRAISERS,  
AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND LONG TERM FUNDING SOLUTIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-279.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-279.2. ~~Commissioner~~**Commissioners to administer Article; appeal to court.**

(a) ~~The~~Except for G.S. 20-279.21(d1), the Commissioner shall administer and enforce the provisions of this Article and may make rules and regulations necessary for its administration and shall provide for hearings upon request of persons aggrieved by orders or acts of the Commissioner under the provisions of this Article. The Commissioner of Insurance shall administer and enforce the provisions of G.S. 20-279.21(d1) and may make rules and regulations necessary for its administration.

(b) Any person aggrieved by an order or act of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles requiring a suspension or revocation of ~~his~~the person's license under the provisions of this Article, or requiring the posting of security as provided in this Article, or requiring the furnishing of proof of financial responsibility, may file a petition in the superior court of the county in which the petitioner resides for a review, and the commencement of ~~such a~~the proceeding shall suspend the order or act of the Commissioner pending the final determination of the review. A copy of ~~such~~the petition shall be served upon the Commissioner, and the Commissioner shall have 20 days after ~~such~~ service in which to file answer. The appeal shall be heard in said county by the judge holding court in said county or by the resident judge. At the hearing upon the petition the judge shall sit without the intervention of a jury and shall receive ~~such~~any evidence ~~as shall be~~ deemed by the judge to be relevant and proper. Except as otherwise provided in this section, upon the filing of the petition herein provided for, the procedure shall be the same as in civil actions.

The matter shall be heard de novo and the judge shall enter ~~his~~an order affirming the act or order of the Commissioner, or modifying same, including the amount of bond or security to be given by the petitioner. If the court is of the opinion that the petitioner was probably not guilty of negligence or that the negligence of the other party was probably the sole proximate cause of the collision, the judge shall reverse the act or order of the Commissioner. Either party may appeal from ~~such~~the order to the Supreme Court in the same manner as in other appeals from the superior court and the appeal shall have the effect of further staying the act or order of the Commissioner requiring a suspension or revocation of the petitioner's license.



1 No act, or order given or rendered in any proceeding hereunder shall be admitted or used in  
2 any other civil or criminal action."

3 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-279.21 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 20-279.21. "Motor vehicle liability policy" defined.**

5 ...

6 (d1) Such motor vehicle liability policy shall provide an alternative method of determining  
7 the amount of property damage to a motor vehicle when liability for coverage for the claim is not  
8 in dispute. For a claim for property damage to a motor vehicle against an insurer, the policy shall  
9 provide that if:

10 (1) The claimant and the insurer fail to agree as to the difference in fair market  
11 value of the vehicle immediately before the accident and immediately after  
12 the accident; and

13 (2) The difference in the claimant's and the insurer's estimate of the diminution in  
14 fair market value is greater than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or twenty-five  
15 percent (25%) of the fair market retail value of the vehicle prior to the accident  
16 as determined by the latest edition of the National Automobile Dealers  
17 Association Pricing Guide Book or other publications approved by the  
18 Commissioner of Insurance, whichever is less, then on the written demand of  
19 either the claimant or the insurer, each shall select a competent and  
20 disinterested appraiser and notify the other of the appraiser selected within 20  
21 days after the demand. The appraisers shall then appraise the loss. Should the  
22 appraisers fail to agree, they shall then select a competent and disinterested  
23 appraiser to serve as an umpire. If the appraisers cannot agree upon an umpire  
24 within 15 days, either the claimant or the insurer may request that a magistrate  
25 resident in the county where the insured motor vehicle is registered or the  
26 county where the accident occurred select the umpire. The appraisers shall  
27 then submit their differences to the umpire. The umpire then shall prepare a  
28 report determining the amount of the loss and shall file the report with the  
29 insurer and the claimant. The agreement of the two appraisers or the report of  
30 the umpire, when filed with the insurer and the claimant, shall determine the  
31 amount of the damages. In preparing the report, the umpire shall not award  
32 damages that are higher or lower than the determinations of the appraisers. In  
33 no event shall appraisers or the umpire make any determination as to liability  
34 for damages or as to whether the policy provides coverage for claims asserted.  
35 The claimant or the insurer shall have 15 days from the filing of the report to  
36 reject the report and notify the other party of such rejection. If the report is not  
37 rejected within 15 days from the filing of the report, the report shall be binding  
38 upon both the claimant and the insurer. Each appraiser shall be paid by the  
39 party selecting the appraiser, and the expenses of appraisal and umpire shall  
40 be paid by the parties equally. For purposes of this section, "appraiser" and  
41 "umpire" shall mean a person licensed as a motor vehicle damage appraiser  
42 under G.S. 58-33-26 and G.S. 58-33-30 and who as a part of his or her regular  
43 employment is in the business of advising relative to the nature and amount  
44 of motor vehicle damage and the fair market value of damaged and  
45 undamaged motor vehicles.

46 ...

47 (o) An insurer that fails to comply with subsection (d1) or (m) of this section is subject  
48 to a civil penalty under G.S. 58-2-70."

49 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.