

**UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTORIST
COVERAGE**

2004 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Dan R. Eastman

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the Insurance Code to amend provisions relating to uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines "interpolicy stacking";
- ▶ provides that interpolicy stacking is prohibited except in certain circumstances; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides for retroactive application.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

31A-22-305, as last amended by Chapters 76 and 218, Laws of Utah 2003

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **31A-22-305** is amended to read:

31A-22-305. Uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage.

(1) As used in this section, "covered persons" includes:

- (a) the named insured;
- (b) persons related to the named insured by blood, marriage, adoption, or guardianship,

who are residents of the named insured's household, including those who usually make their home in the same household but temporarily live elsewhere;

(c) any person occupying or using a motor vehicle:

(i) referred to in the policy; or

(ii) owned by a self-insurer; and

(d) any person who is entitled to recover damages against the owner or operator of the uninsured or underinsured motor vehicle because of bodily injury to or death of persons under Subsection (1)(a), (b), or (c).

(2) As used in this section, "uninsured motor vehicle" includes:

(a) (i) a motor vehicle, the operation, maintenance, or use of which is not covered under a liability policy at the time of an injury-causing occurrence; or

(ii) (A) a motor vehicle covered with lower liability limits than required by Section 31A-22-304; and

(B) the motor vehicle described in Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(A) is uninsured to the extent of the deficiency;

(b) an unidentified motor vehicle that left the scene of an accident proximately caused by the motor vehicle operator;

(c) a motor vehicle covered by a liability policy, but coverage for an accident is disputed by the liability insurer for more than 60 days or continues to be disputed for more than 60 days; or

(d) (i) an insured motor vehicle if, before or after the accident, the liability insurer of the motor vehicle is declared insolvent by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

(ii) the motor vehicle described in Subsection (2)(d)(i) is uninsured only to the extent that the claim against the insolvent insurer is not paid by a guaranty association or fund.

(3) (a) Uninsured motorist coverage under Subsection 31A-22-302(1)(b) provides coverage for covered persons who are legally entitled to recover damages from owners or operators of uninsured motor vehicles because of bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death.

(b) For new policies written on or after January 1, 2001, the limits of uninsured motorist coverage shall be equal to the lesser of the limits of the insured's motor vehicle liability coverage

or the maximum uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the insured's motor vehicle policy, unless the insured purchases coverage in a lesser amount by signing an acknowledgment form provided by the insurer that:

(i) waives the higher coverage;

(ii) reasonably explains the purpose of uninsured motorist coverage; and

(iii) discloses the additional premiums required to purchase uninsured motorist coverage with limits equal to the lesser of the limits of the insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the insured's motor vehicle policy.

(c) Self-insurers, including governmental entities, may elect to provide uninsured motorist coverage in an amount that is less than their maximum self-insured retention under Subsections (3)(b) and (4)(a) by issuing a declaratory memorandum or policy statement from the chief financial officer or chief risk officer that declares the:

(i) self-insured entity's coverage level; and

(ii) process for filing an uninsured motorist claim.

(d) Uninsured motorist coverage may not be sold with limits that are less than the minimum bodily injury limits for motor vehicle liability policies under Section 31A-22-304.

(e) The acknowledgment under Subsection (3)(b) continues for that issuer of the uninsured motorist coverage until the insured, in writing, requests different uninsured motorist coverage from the insurer.

(f) (i) In conjunction with the first two renewal notices sent after January 1, 2001, for policies existing on that date, the insurer shall disclose in the same medium as the premium renewal notice, an explanation of the purpose of uninsured motorist coverage and the costs associated with increasing the coverage in amounts up to and including the maximum amount available by the insurer under the insured's motor vehicle policy.

(ii) The disclosure shall be sent to all insureds that carry uninsured motorist coverage limits in an amount less than the insured's motor vehicle liability policy limits or the maximum uninsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the insured's motor vehicle

policy.

(4) (a) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the named insured may reject uninsured motorist coverage by an express writing to the insurer that provides liability coverage under Subsection 31A-22-302(1)(a).

(ii) This rejection shall be on a form provided by the insurer that includes a reasonable explanation of the purpose of uninsured motorist coverage.

(iii) This rejection continues for that issuer of the liability coverage until the insured in writing requests uninsured motorist coverage from that liability insurer.

(b) (i) All persons, including governmental entities, that are engaged in the business of, or that accept payment for, transporting natural persons by motor vehicle, and all school districts that provide transportation services for their students, shall provide coverage for all motor vehicles used for that purpose, by purchase of a policy of insurance or by self-insurance, uninsured motorist coverage of at least \$25,000 per person and \$500,000 per accident.

(ii) This coverage is secondary to any other insurance covering an injured covered person.

(c) Uninsured motorist coverage:

(i) is secondary to the benefits provided by Title 34A, Chapter 2, Workers' Compensation Act;

(ii) may not be subrogated by the Workers' Compensation insurance carrier;

(iii) may not be reduced by any benefits provided by Workers' Compensation insurance;

(iv) may be reduced by health insurance subrogation only after the covered person has been made whole;

(v) may not be collected for bodily injury or death sustained by a person:

(A) while committing a violation of Section 41-1a-1314;

(B) who, as a passenger in a vehicle, has knowledge that the vehicle is being operated in violation of Section 41-1a-1314; or

(C) while committing a felony; and

(vi) notwithstanding Subsection (4)(c)(v), may be recovered:

(A) for a person under 18 years of age who is injured within the scope of Subsection

(4)(c)(v) but limited to medical and funeral expenses; or

(B) by a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103, who is injured within the course and scope of the law enforcement officer's duties.

(d) As used in this Subsection (4):

(i) "Governmental entity" has the same meaning as under Section 63-30-2.

(ii) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as under Section 41-1a-102.

(5) When a covered person alleges that an uninsured motor vehicle under Subsection (2)(b) proximately caused an accident without touching the covered person or the motor vehicle occupied by the covered person, the covered person must show the existence of the uninsured motor vehicle by clear and convincing evidence consisting of more than the covered person's testimony.

(6) (a) The limit of liability for uninsured motorist coverage for two or more motor vehicles may not be added together, combined, or stacked to determine the limit of insurance coverage available to an injured person for any one accident.

(b) (i) Subsection (6)(a) applies to all persons except a covered person as defined under Subsection (7)(b)(ii).

(ii) A covered person as defined under Subsection (7)(b)(ii) is entitled to the highest limits of uninsured motorist coverage afforded for any one motor vehicle that the covered person is the named insured or an insured family member.

(iii) This coverage shall be in addition to the coverage on the motor vehicle the covered person is occupying.

(iv) Neither the primary nor the secondary coverage may be set off against the other.

(c) Coverage on a motor vehicle occupied at the time of an accident shall be primary coverage, and the coverage elected by a person described under Subsections (1)(a) and (b) shall be secondary coverage.

(7) (a) Uninsured motorist coverage under this section applies to bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death of covered persons while occupying or using a motor vehicle only if the motor vehicle is described in the policy under which a claim is made, or if the motor vehicle is a newly

acquired or replacement motor vehicle covered under the terms of the policy. Except as provided in Subsection (6) or this Subsection (7), a covered person injured in a motor vehicle described in a policy that includes uninsured motorist benefits may not elect to collect uninsured motorist coverage benefits from any other motor vehicle insurance policy under which he is a covered person.

(b) Each of the following persons may also recover uninsured motorist benefits under any one other policy in which they are described as a "covered person" as defined in Subsection (1):

(i) a covered person injured as a pedestrian by an uninsured motor vehicle; and

(ii) except as provided in Subsection (7)(c), a covered person injured while occupying or using a motor vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished, to the covered person, to the covered person's spouse, or to the covered person's resident parent or resident sibling.

(c) (i) A covered person may recover benefits from no more than two additional policies, one additional policy from each parent's household if the covered person is:

(A) a dependent minor of parents who reside in separate households; and

(B) injured while occupying or using a motor vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished to the covered person, the covered person's resident parent, or to the covered person's resident sibling.

(ii) Each parent's policy under this Subsection (7)(c) is liable only for the percentage of the damages that the limit of liability of each parent's policy of uninsured motorist coverage bears to the total of all uninsured coverage applicable to the accident.

(d) A covered person's recovery under any available policies may not exceed the full amount of damages.

(e) A covered person in Subsection (7)(b) is not barred against making subsequent elections if recovery is unavailable under previous elections.

(f) (i) As used in this section, "interpolicy stacking" means recovering benefits for a single incident of loss under more than one insurance policy.

(ii) Except to the extent permitted by Subsection (6) and this Subsection (7), interpolicy stacking is prohibited for uninsured motorist coverage.

(8) (a) As used in this section, "underinsured motor vehicle" includes a motor vehicle, the operation, maintenance, or use of which is covered under a liability policy at the time of an injury-causing occurrence, but which has insufficient liability coverage to compensate fully the injured party for all special and general damages.

(b) The term "underinsured motor vehicle" does not include:

(i) a motor vehicle that is covered under the liability coverage of the same policy that also contains the underinsured motorist coverage;

(ii) an uninsured motor vehicle as defined in Subsection (2); or

(iii) a motor vehicle owned or leased by the named insured, the named insured's spouse, or any dependant of the named insured.

(9) (a) (i) Underinsured motorist coverage under Subsection 31A-22-302(1)(c) provides coverage for covered persons who are legally entitled to recover damages from owners or operators of underinsured motor vehicles because of bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death.

(ii) A covered person occupying or using a motor vehicle owned, leased, or furnished to the covered person, the covered person's spouse, or covered person's resident relative may recover underinsured benefits only if the motor vehicle is:

(A) described in the policy under which a claim is made; or

(B) a newly acquired or replacement motor vehicle covered under the terms of the policy.

(b) For new policies written on or after January 1, 2001, the limits of underinsured motorist coverage shall be equal to the lesser of the limits of the insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the insured's motor vehicle policy, unless the insured purchases coverage in a lesser amount by signing an acknowledgment form provided by the insurer that:

(i) waives the higher coverage;

(ii) reasonably explains the purpose of underinsured motorist coverage; and

(iii) discloses the additional premiums required to purchase underinsured motorist coverage with limits equal to the lesser of the limits of the insured's motor vehicle liability coverage or the maximum underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the

insured's motor vehicle policy.

(c) Self-insurers, including governmental entities, may elect to provide underinsured motorist coverage in an amount that is less than their maximum self-insured retention under Subsections (9)(b) and (9)(g) by issuing a declaratory memorandum or policy statement from the chief financial officer or chief risk officer that declares the:

- (i) self-insured entity's coverage level; and
- (ii) process for filing an underinsured motorist claim.

(d) Underinsured motorist coverage may not be sold with limits that are less than \$10,000 for one person in any one accident and at least \$20,000 for two or more persons in any one accident.

(e) The acknowledgment under Subsection (9)(b) continues for that issuer of the underinsured motorist coverage until the insured, in writing, requests different underinsured motorist coverage from the insurer.

(f) The named insured's underinsured motorist coverage, as described in Subsection (9)(a), is secondary to the liability coverage of an owner or operator of an underinsured motor vehicle, as described in Subsection (8). Underinsured motorist coverage may not be set off against the liability coverage of the owner or operator of an underinsured motor vehicle, but shall be added to, combined with, or stacked upon the liability coverage of the owner or operator of the underinsured motor vehicle to determine the limit of coverage available to the injured person.

(g) (i) A named insured may reject underinsured motorist coverage by an express writing to the insurer that provides liability coverage under Subsection 31A-22-302(1)(a).

(ii) This written rejection shall be on a form provided by the insurer that includes a reasonable explanation of the purpose of underinsured motorist coverage and when it would be applicable.

(iii) This rejection continues for that issuer of the liability coverage until the insured in writing requests underinsured motorist coverage from that liability insurer.

(h) (i) In conjunction with the first two renewal notices sent after January 1, 2001, for policies existing on that date, the insurer shall disclose in the same medium as the premium

renewal notice, an explanation of the purpose of underinsured motorist coverage and the costs associated with increasing the coverage in amounts up to and including the maximum amount available by the insurer under the insured's motor vehicle policy.

(ii) The disclosure shall be sent to all insureds that carry underinsured motorist coverage limits in an amount less than the insured's motor vehicle liability policy limits or the maximum underinsured motorist coverage limits available by the insurer under the insured's motor vehicle policy.

(10) (a) (i) Except as provided in this Subsection (10), a covered person injured in a motor vehicle described in a policy that includes underinsured motorist benefits may not elect to collect underinsured motorist coverage benefits from any other motor vehicle insurance policy.

(ii) The limit of liability for underinsured motorist coverage for two or more motor vehicles may not be added together, combined, or stacked to determine the limit of insurance coverage available to an injured person for any one accident.

(iii) Subsection (10)(a)(ii) applies to all persons except a covered person as defined under Subsections (10)(b)(i) and (ii).

(b) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (10)(b)(ii), a covered person injured while occupying, using, or maintaining a motor vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished to the covered person, the covered person's spouse, or the covered person's resident parent or resident sibling, may also recover benefits under any one other policy under which they are a covered person.

(ii) (A) A covered person may recover benefits from no more than two additional policies, one additional policy from each parent's household if the covered person is:

(I) a dependent minor of parents who reside in separate households; and

(II) injured while occupying or using a motor vehicle that is not owned, leased, or furnished to the covered person, the covered person's resident parent, or the covered person's resident sibling.

(B) Each parent's policy under this Subsection (10)(b)(ii) is liable only for the percentage of the damages that the limit of liability of each parent's policy of underinsured motorist coverage

bears to the total of all underinsured coverage applicable to the accident.

(iii) A covered person's recovery under any available policies may not exceed the full amount of damages.

(iv) Underinsured coverage on a motor vehicle occupied at the time of an accident shall be primary coverage, and the coverage elected by a person described under Subsections (1)(a) and (b) shall be secondary coverage.

(v) The primary and the secondary coverage may not be set off against the other.

(vi) A covered person as defined under Subsection (10)(b)(i) is entitled to the highest limits of underinsured motorist coverage under only one additional policy per household applicable to that covered person as a named insured, spouse, or relative.

(vii) A covered injured person is not barred against making subsequent elections if recovery is unavailable under previous elections.

(viii) (A) As used in this section, "interpolicy stacking" means recovering benefits for a single incident of loss under more than one insurance policy.

(B) Except to the extent permitted by this Subsection (10), interpolicy stacking is prohibited for underinsured motorist coverage.

(c) Underinsured motorist coverage:

(i) is secondary to the benefits provided by Title 34A, Chapter 2, Workers' Compensation Act;

(ii) may not be subrogated by the Workers' Compensation insurance carrier;

(iii) may not be reduced by any benefits provided by Workers' Compensation insurance;

(iv) may be reduced by health insurance subrogation only after the covered person has been made whole;

(v) may not be collected for bodily injury or death sustained by a person:

(A) while committing a violation of Section 41-1a-1314;

(B) who, as a passenger in a vehicle, has knowledge that the vehicle is being operated in violation of Section 41-1a-1314; or

(C) while committing a felony; and

(vi) notwithstanding Subsection (10)(c)(v), may be recovered:

(A) for a person under 18 years of age who is injured within the scope of Subsection (10)(c)(v) but limited to medical and funeral expenses; or

(B) by a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 53-13-103, who is injured within the course and scope of the law enforcement officer's duties.

(11) The inception of the loss under Subsection 31A-21-313(1) for underinsured motorist claims occurs upon the date of the last liability policy payment.

(12) (a) Within five business days after notification in a manner specified by the department that all liability insurers have tendered their liability policy limits, the underinsured carrier shall either:

(i) waive any subrogation claim the underinsured carrier may have against the person liable for the injuries caused in the accident; or

(ii) pay the insured an amount equal to the policy limits tendered by the liability carrier.

(b) If neither option is exercised under Subsection (12)(a), the subrogation claim is deemed to be waived by the underinsured carrier.

(13) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a covered person may seek, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, additional coverage under any policy:

(a) that provides coverage for damages resulting from motor vehicle accidents; and

(b) that is not required to conform to Section 31A-22-302.

Section 2. Retroactive application.

(1) Subsections 31A-22-305(7)(f) and (10)(b)(viii) apply retroactively to any claim on or after January 1, 1995 for which as of May 3, 2004, a court of competent jurisdiction has not issued a final unappealable judgment or order.

(2) The Legislature finds that the retroactive application of Subsections 31A-22-305(7)(f) and (10)(b)(viii):

(a) does not enlarge, eliminate, or destroy vested rights; and

(b) clarifies legislative intent.