1	MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE AMENDMENTS
2	2017 GENERAL SESSION
3	STATE OF UTAH
4	Chief Sponsor: Mike K. McKell
5	Senate Sponsor:
6 7	LONG TITLE
8	General Description:
9	This bill modifies provisions related to unfair claim settlement practices.
10	Highlighted Provisions:
11	This bill:
12	 modifies the acts that are an unfair claim settlement practice;
13	 enacts provisions that define unfair claim settlement practices for a motor vehicle
14	insurer;
15	 provides a private right of action against a motor vehicle insurer that engages in an
16	unfair claim settlement practice;
17	 addresses damages in an action against a motor vehicle insurer for engaging in an
18	unfair claim settlement practice;
19	 requires a court to expedite proceedings in an action against a motor vehicle insurer
20	for engaging in an unfair claim settlement practice; and
21	makes technical changes.
22	Money Appropriated in this Bill:
23	None
24	Other Special Clauses:
25	None
26	Utah Code Sections Affected:
27	AMENDS:



31A-15-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 238
31A-26-303, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1987, Chapter 91
53-3-109, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 175
ENACTS:
31A-26-303.5 , Utah Code Annotated 1953
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
Section 1. Section 31A-15-103 is amended to read:
31A-15-103. Surplus lines insurance Unauthorized insurers.
(1) Notwithstanding Section 31A-15-102, a foreign insurer that has not obtained a
certificate of authority to do business in this state under Section 31A-14-202 may negotiate for
and make an insurance contract with a person in this state and on a risk located in this state,
subject to the limitations and requirements of this section.
(2) (a) For a contract made under this section, the insurer may, in this state:
(i) inspect the risks to be insured;
(ii) collect premiums;
(iii) adjust losses; and
(iv) do another act reasonably incidental to the contract.
(b) An act described in Subsection (2)(a) may be done through:
(i) an employee; or
(ii) an independent contractor.
(3) (a) Subsections (1) and (2) do not permit a person to solicit business in this state on
behalf of an insurer that has no certificate of authority.
(b) Insurance placed with a nonadmitted insurer shall be placed with a surplus lines
producer licensed under Chapter 23a, Insurance Marketing - Licensing Producers, Consultants,
and Reinsurance Intermediaries.
(c) The commissioner may by rule prescribe how a surplus lines producer may:
(i) pay or permit the payment, commission, or other remuneration on insurance placed
by the surplus lines producer under authority of the surplus lines producer's license to one
holding a license to act as an insurance producer; and
(ii) advertise the availability of the surplus lines producer's services in procuring on

62

63

64

65

6667

68

69

70

71

7273

74

75

76

84

- 59 behalf of a person seeking insurance, a contract with a nonadmitted insurer.
- 60 (4) For a contract made under this section, a nonadmitted insurer is subject to Sections 31A-23a-402, 31A-23a-402.5, and 31A-23a-403 and the rules adopted under those sections.
 - (5) A nonadmitted insurer may not issue workers' compensation insurance coverage to an employer located in this state, except for stop loss coverage issued to an employer securing workers' compensation under Subsection 34A-2-201(3).
 - (6) (a) The commissioner may by rule prohibit making a contract under Subsection (1) for a specified class of insurance if authorized insurers provide an established market for the class in this state that is adequate and reasonably competitive.
 - (b) The commissioner may by rule place a restriction or a limitation on and create special procedures for making a contract under Subsection (1) for a specified class of insurance if:
 - (i) there have been abuses of placements in the class; or
 - (ii) the policyholders in the class, because of limited financial resources, business experience, or knowledge, cannot protect their own interests adequately.
 - (c) The commissioner may prohibit an individual insurer from making a contract under Subsection (1) and all insurance producers from dealing with the insurer if:
 - (i) the insurer willfully violates:
- 77 (A) this section;
- 78 (B) Section 31A-4-102, 31A-23a-402, 31A-23a-402.5, [or] 31A-26-303, or
- 79 31A-26-303.5; or
- 80 (C) a rule adopted under a section listed in Subsection (6)(c)(i)(A) or (B);
- 81 (ii) the insurer fails to pay the fees and taxes specified under Section 31A-3-301; or
- 82 (iii) the commissioner has reason to believe that the insurer is:
- (A) in an unsound condition;
 - (B) operated in a fraudulent, dishonest, or incompetent manner; or
- (C) in violation of the law of its domicile.
- 86 (d) (i) The commissioner may issue one or more lists of unauthorized foreign insurers 87 whose:
 - (A) solidity the commissioner doubts; or
- (B) practices the commissioner considers objectionable.

(ii) The commissioner shall issue one or more lists of unauthorized foreign insurers the commissioner considers to be reliable and solid.

- (iii) In addition to the lists described in Subsections (6)(d)(i) and (ii), the commissioner may issue other relevant evaluations of unauthorized insurers.
- (iv) An action may not lie against the commissioner or an employee of the department for a written or oral communication made in, or in connection with the issuance of, a list or evaluation described in this Subsection (6)(d).
- (e) A foreign unauthorized insurer shall be listed on the commissioner's "reliable" list only if the unauthorized insurer:
 - (i) delivers a request to the commissioner to be on the list;

- (ii) establishes satisfactory evidence of good reputation and financial integrity;
- (iii) (A) delivers to the commissioner a copy of the unauthorized insurer's current annual statement certified by the insurer; and
- (B) continues each subsequent year to file its annual statements with the commissioner within 60 days of the day on which it is filed with the insurance regulatory authority where the insurer is domiciled;
- (iv) (A) (I) is in substantial compliance with the solvency standards in Chapter 17, Part 6, Risk-Based Capital, or maintains capital and surplus of at least \$15,000,000, whichever is greater; and
- (II) maintains in the United States an irrevocable trust fund in either a national bank or a member of the Federal Reserve System, or maintains a deposit meeting the statutory deposit requirements for insurers in the state where it is made, which trust fund or deposit:
- (Aa) shall be in an amount not less than \$2,500,000 for the protection of all of the insurer's policyholders in the United States;
- (Bb) may consist of cash, securities, or investments of substantially the same character and quality as those which are "qualified assets" under Section 31A-17-201; and
- (Cc) may include as part of the trust arrangement a letter of credit that qualifies as acceptable security under Section 31A-17-404.1; or
- (B) in the case of any "Lloyd's" or other similar incorporated or unincorporated group of alien individual insurers, maintains a trust fund that:
- (I) shall be in an amount not less than \$50,000,000 as security to its full amount for all

121	policyholders and creditors in the Office States of each member of the group;
122	(II) may consist of cash, securities, or investments of substantially the same character
123	and quality as those which are "qualified assets" under Section 31A-17-201; and
124	(III) may include as part of this trust arrangement a letter of credit that qualifies as
125	acceptable security under Section 31A-17-404.1; and
126	(v) for an alien insurer not domiciled in the United States or a territory of the United
127	States, is listed on the Quarterly Listing of Alien Insurers maintained by the National
128	Association of Insurance Commissioners International Insurers Department.
129	(7) (a) Subject to Subsection (7)(b), a surplus lines producer may not, either knowingly
130	or without reasonable investigation of the financial condition and general reputation of the
131	insurer, place insurance under this section with:
132	(i) a financially unsound insurer;
133	(ii) an insurer engaging in unfair practices; or
134	(iii) an otherwise substandard insurer.
135	(b) A surplus line producer may place insurance under this section with an insurer
136	described in Subsection (7)(a) if the surplus line producer:
137	(i) gives the applicant notice in writing of the known deficiencies of the insurer or the
138	limitations on the surplus line producer's investigation; and
139	(ii) explains the need to place the business with that insurer.
140	(c) A copy of the notice described in Subsection (7)(b) shall be kept in the office of the
141	surplus line producer for at least five years.
142	(d) To be financially sound, an insurer shall satisfy standards that are comparable to
143	those applied under the laws of this state to an authorized insurer.
144	(e) An insurer on the "doubtful or objectionable" list under Subsection (6)(d) or an
145	insurer not on the commissioner's "reliable" list under Subsection (6)(e) is presumed
146	substandard.
147	(8) (a) A policy issued under this section shall:
148	(i) include a description of the subject of the insurance; and
149	(ii) indicate:
150	(A) the coverage, conditions, and term of the insurance;
151	(B) the premium charged the policyholder;

M

	H.B. 350 02-13-17 12:46 PM
152	(C) the premium taxes to be collected from the policyholder; and
153	(D) the name and address of the policyholder and insurer.
154	(b) If the direct risk is assumed by more than one insurer, the policy shall state:
155	(i) the names and addresses of all insurers; and
156	(ii) the portion of the entire direct risk each assumes.
157	(c) A policy issued under this section shall have attached or affixed to the policy the
158	following statement: "The insurer issuing this policy does not hold a certificate of authority to
159	do business in this state and thus is not fully subject to regulation by the Utah insurance
160	commissioner. This policy receives no protection from any of the guaranty associations created
161	under Title 31A, Chapter 28, Guaranty Associations."
162	(9) Upon placing a new or renewal coverage under this section, a surplus lines
163	producer shall promptly deliver to the policyholder or the policyholder's agent evidence of the
164	insurance consisting either of:
165	(a) the policy as issued by the insurer; or
166	(b) if the policy is not available upon placing the coverage, a certificate, cover note, or
167	other confirmation of insurance complying with Subsection (8).
168	(10) If the commissioner finds it necessary to protect the interests of insureds and the
169	public in this state, the commissioner may by rule subject a policy issued under this section to
170	as much of the regulation provided by this title as is required for a comparable policy written
171	by an authorized foreign insurer.
172	(11) (a) A surplus lines transaction in this state shall be examined to determine whether
173	it complies with:
174	(i) the surplus lines tax levied under Chapter 3, Department Funding, Fees, and Taxes;
175	(ii) the solicitation limitations of Subsection (3);
176	(iii) the requirement of Subsection (3) that placement be through a surplus lines
177	producer:

information necessary to conduct the examination within a period specified by rule.

(v) the policy form requirements of Subsections (8) and (10).

(iv) placement limitations imposed under Subsections (6)(a), (b), and (c); and

(b) The examination described in Subsection (11)(a) shall take place as soon as

practicable after the transaction. The surplus lines producer shall submit to the examiner

178

179

180

181

- (c) (i) The examination described in Subsection (11)(a) may be conducted by the commissioner or by an advisory organization created under Section 31A-15-111 and authorized by the commissioner to conduct these examinations. The commissioner is not required to authorize an additional advisory organization to conduct an examination under this Subsection (11)(c).
- (ii) The commissioner's authorization of one or more advisory organizations to act as examiners under this Subsection (11)(c) shall be:
 - (A) by rule; and
- (B) evidenced by a contract, on a form provided by the commissioner, between the authorized advisory organization and the department.
- (d) (i) (A) A person conducting the examination described in Subsection (11)(a) shall collect a stamping fee of an amount not to exceed 1% of the policy premium payable in connection with the transaction.
- (B) A stamping fee collected by the commissioner shall be deposited in the General Fund.
 - (C) The commissioner shall establish a stamping fee by rule.
- (ii) A stamping fee collected by an advisory organization is the property of the advisory organization to be used in paying the expenses of the advisory organization.
- (iii) Liability for paying a stamping fee is as required under Subsection 31A-3-303(1) for taxes imposed under Section 31A-3-301.
- (iv) The commissioner shall adopt a rule dealing with the payment of stamping fees. If a stamping fee is not paid when due, the commissioner or advisory organization may impose a penalty of 25% of the stamping fee due, plus 1-1/2% per month from the time of default until full payment of the stamping fee.
- (v) A stamping fee relative to a policy covering a risk located partially in this state shall be allocated in the same manner as under Subsection 31A-3-303(4).
- (e) The commissioner, representatives of the department, advisory organizations, representatives and members of advisory organizations, authorized insurers, and surplus lines insurers are not liable for damages on account of statements, comments, or recommendations made in good faith in connection with their duties under this Subsection (11)(e) or under Section 31A-15-111.

214	(f) An examination conducted under this Subsection (11) and a document or materials
215	related to the examination are confidential.
216	(12) (a) For a surplus lines insurance transaction in the state entered into on or after
217	May 13, 2014, if an audit is required by the surplus lines insurance policy, a surplus lines
218	insurer:
219	(i) shall exercise due diligence to initiate an audit of an insured, to determine whether
220	additional premium is owed by the insured, by no later than six months after the expiration of
221	the term for which premium is paid; and
222	(ii) may not audit an insured more than three years after the surplus lines insurance
223	policy expires.
224	(b) A surplus lines insurer that does not comply with this Subsection (12) may not
225	charge or collect additional premium in excess of the premium agreed to under the surplus
226	lines insurance policy.
227	Section 2. Section 31A-26-303 is amended to read:
228	31A-26-303. Unfair claim settlement practices.
229	(1) No insurer or person representing an insurer may engage in any unfair claim
230	settlement practice under Subsections $(2)[\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2}]$ and (3) .
231	(2) Each of the following acts is an unfair claim settlement practice:
232	(a) knowingly misrepresenting material facts or the contents of insurance policy
233	provisions at issue in connection with a claim under an insurance contract; however, this
234	provision does not include the failure to disclose information;
235	(b) attempting to use a policy application which was altered by the insurer without
236	notice to, or knowledge, or consent of, the insured as the basis for settling or refusing to settle
237	claim; [or]
238	(c) failing to settle a claim promptly under one portion of the insurance policy
239	coverage, where liability and the amount of loss are reasonably clear, in order to influence
240	settlements under other portions of the insurance policy coverage, but this Subsection (2)(c)
241	applies only to claims made by persons in direct privity of contract with the insurer[-];
242	[(3) Each of the following is an unfair claim settlement practice if committed or
243	performed with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice by an insurer or
244	persons representing an insurer:

245	[(a)] (d) failing to acknowledge and act promptly upon communications about claims
246	under insurance policies;
247	[(b)] (e) failing to adopt and implement reasonable standards for the prompt
248	investigation and processing of claims under insurance policies;
249	[(c)] (f) compelling insureds to institute litigation to recover amounts due under an
250	insurance policy by offering substantially less than the amounts ultimately recovered in actions
251	brought by those insureds when the amounts claimed were reasonably near to the amounts
252	recovered;
253	[(d)] (g) failing, after payment of a claim, to inform insureds or beneficiaries, upon
254	request by them, of the coverage under which payment was made;
255	[(e)] (h) failing to promptly provide to the insured a reasonable explanation of the basis
256	for denial of a claim or for the offer of a compromise settlement;
257	[(f)] (i) appealing from substantially all arbitration awards in favor of insureds for the
258	purpose of compelling them to accept settlements or compromises for less than the amount
259	awarded in arbitration;
260	[(g)] (j) delaying the investigation or payment of claims by requiring an insured,
261	claimant, or the physician of either to submit a preliminary claim report and then requiring the
262	subsequent submission of formal proof of loss forms which contain substantially the same
263	information; or
264	[(h)] (k) not attempting in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable
265	settlement of claims in which liability is reasonably clear.
266	[(4)] (3) The commissioner may define by rule, acts or general business practices
267	which are unfair claim settlement practices, after a finding that those practices are misleading,
268	deceptive, unfairly discriminatory, overreaching, or an unreasonable restraint on competition.
269	[(5)] (4) [This] Except as provided in Section 31A-26-303.5, this section does not
270	create any private cause of action.
271	Section 3. Section 31A-26-303.5 is enacted to read:
272	31A-26-303.5. Motor vehicle insurer unfair claim settlement practices.
273	(1) Each of the following acts committed by a motor vehicle insurer is an unfair claim
274	settlement practice:
275	(a) unless otherwise agreed to by the claimant or provided for in the governing

276	insurance policy, offering a cash settlement amount that is less than the amount that the insurer
277	would be charged to repair the motor vehicle;
278	(b) refusing to settle a claim based solely upon whether a law enforcement officer
279	issues a traffic citation in connection with the event that gave rise to the claim;
280	(c) failing to disclose all coverages for which the insurer requires an application for
281	benefits;
282	(d) failing to disclose all coverages available to a claimant;
283	(e) requiring a claimant to use only the insurer's claim service to perfect a claim;
284	(f) upon request by a claimant, failing to give the claimant the name and address of a
285	salvage vehicle buyer licensed under Title 41, Chapter 3, Part 2, Licensing, that provides a
286	salvage quote for an amount that the insurer deducts from a total loss settlement with the
287	claimant;
288	(g) refusing to disclose a claimant's policy limits upon request by the claimant or the
289	claimant's attorney;
290	(h) using a release on the back of a check or draft that requires a claimant to release the
291	insurer from obligation or further claims in order to process a current claim when the insurer
292	knows or reasonably should know that the insurer will have future liability related to the event
293	that gave rise to the claim;
294	(i) intentionally offering less money to a claimant than the reasonable value of the
295	claim;
296	(j) refusing to offer to pay a claim based upon the comparative negligence of another
297	person without a reasonable basis; or
298	(k) imputing the negligence of a bailee to the owner of the vehicle.
299	(2) (a) A motor vehicle insurer that engages in an unfair claim settlement practice
300	described in Subsection (1) or Section 31A-26-303 is liable to the insured for the greater of:
301	(i) \$1,000 per violation; or
302	(ii) actual damages up to \$25,000.
303	(b) A claimant may file an action in district court to enforce the provisions of
304	Subsection (2)(a).
305	(c) In an action filed under this Subsection (2), the court shall expedite the proceedings
306	related to each cause of action under this section.

307	(3) The provisions of this section apply to each motor vehicle insurer, including a
308	third-party motor vehicle insurer.
309	(4) The provisions of this section do not affect any other cause of action available to a
310	claimant against a motor vehicle insurer, including any contract-based claim.
311	Section 4. Section 53-3-109 is amended to read:
312	53-3-109. Records Access Fees Rulemaking.
313	(1) (a) Except as provided in this section, all records of the division shall be classified
314	and disclosed in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and
315	Management Act.
316	(b) The division may only disclose personal identifying information:
317	(i) when the division determines it is in the interest of the public safety to disclose the
318	information; and
319	(ii) in accordance with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C.
320	Chapter 123.
321	(c) The division may disclose personal identifying information:
322	(i) to a licensed private investigator holding a valid agency license, with a legitimate
323	business need;
324	(ii) to an insurer, insurance support organization, or a self-insured entity, or its agents,
325	employees, or contractors that issues any motor vehicle insurance under Title 31A, Chapter 22,
326	Part 3, Motor Vehicle Insurance, for use in connection with claims investigation activities,
327	antifraud activities, rating, or underwriting for any person issued a license certificate under this
328	chapter; or
329	(iii) to a depository institution as defined in Section 7-1-103 for use in accordance with
330	the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. Chapter 123.
331	(2) (a) A person who receives personal identifying information shall be advised by the
332	division that the person may not:
333	(i) disclose the personal identifying information from that record to any other person;
334	or
335	(ii) use the personal identifying information from that record for advertising or
336	solicitation purposes.
337	(b) Any use of personal identifying information by an insurer or insurance support

338	organization, or by a sen-insured entity of its agents, employees, or contractors not authorized
339	by Subsection (1)(c)(ii) is:
340	(i) an unfair marketing practice under Section 31A-23a-402; or
341	(ii) an unfair claim settlement practice under [Subsection] Section 31A-26-303[(3)].
342	(3) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (1)(b), the division or its designee
343	may disclose portions of a driving record, in accordance with this Subsection (3), to:
344	(i) an insurer as defined under Section 31A-1-301, or a designee of an insurer, for
345	purposes of assessing driving risk on the insurer's current motor vehicle insurance
346	policyholders;
347	(ii) an employer or a designee of an employer, for purposes of monitoring the driving
348	record and status of current employees who drive as a responsibility of the employee's
349	employment if the requester demonstrates that the requester has obtained the written consent of
350	the individual to whom the information pertains; and
351	(iii) an employer or the employer's agents to obtain or verify information relating to a
352	holder of a commercial driver license that is required under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 313.
353	(b) A disclosure under Subsection (3)(a)(i) shall:
354	(i) include the licensed driver's name, driver license number, date of birth, and an
355	indication of whether the driver has had a moving traffic violation that is a reportable violation,
356	as defined under Section 53-3-102 during the previous month;
357	(ii) be limited to the records of drivers who, at the time of the disclosure, are covered
358	under a motor vehicle insurance policy of the insurer; and
359	(iii) be made under a contract with the insurer or a designee of an insurer.
360	(c) A disclosure under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or (iii) shall:
361	(i) include the licensed driver's name, driver license number, date of birth, and an
362	indication of whether the driver has had a moving traffic violation that is a reportable violation,
363	as defined under Section 53-3-102, during the previous month;
364	(ii) be limited to the records of a current employee of an employer;
365	(iii) be made under a contract with the employer or a designee of an employer; and
366	(iv) include an indication of whether the driver has had a change reflected in the
367	driver's:
368	(A) driving status;

369	(B) license class;
370	(C) medical self-certification status; or
371	(D) medical examiner's certificate under 49 C.F.R. Sec. 391.45.
372	(d) The contract under Subsection (3)(b)(iii) or (c)(iii) shall specify:
373	(i) the criteria for searching and compiling the driving records being requested;
374	(ii) the frequency of the disclosures;
375	(iii) the format of the disclosures, which may be in bulk electronic form; and
376	(iv) a reasonable charge for the driving record disclosures under this Subsection (3).
377	(4) The division may:
378	(a) collect fees in accordance with Section 53-3-105 for searching and compiling its
379	files or furnishing a report on the driving record of a person;
380	(b) prepare under the seal of the division and deliver upon request, a certified copy of
381	any record of the division, and charge a fee under Section 63J-1-504 for each document
382	authenticated; and
383	(c) charge reasonable fees established in accordance with the procedures and
384	requirements of Section 63J-1-504 for disclosing personal identifying information under
385	Subsection (1)(c).
386	(5) Each certified copy of a driving record furnished in accordance with this section is
387	admissible in any court proceeding in the same manner as the original.
388	(6) (a) A driving record furnished under this section may only report on the driving
389	record of a person for a period of 10 years.
390	(b) Subsection (6)(a) does not apply to court or law enforcement reports, reports of
391	commercial driver license violations, or reports for commercial driver license holders.
392	(7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
393	division may make rules to designate:
394	(a) what information shall be included in a report on the driving record of a person;
395	(b) the form of a report or copy of the report which may include electronic format;
396	(c) the form of a certified copy, as required under Section 53-3-216, which may include
397	electronic format;
398	(d) the form of a signature required under this chapter which may include electronic
399	format;

(e) the form of written request to the division required under this chapter which may include electronic format;
(f) the procedures, requirements, and formats for disclosing personal identifying information under Subsection (1)(c); and
(g) the procedures, requirements, and formats necessary for the implementation of Subsection (3).
(8) (a) It is a class B misdemeanor for a person to knowingly or intentionally access, use, disclose, or disseminate a record created or maintained by the division or any information contained in a record created or maintained by the division for a purpose prohibited or not permitted by statute, rule, regulation, or policy of a governmental entity.
(b) A person who discovers or becomes aware of any unauthorized use of records

(b) A person who discovers or becomes aware of any unauthorized use of records created or maintained by the division shall inform the commissioner and the division director of the unauthorized use.

Legislative Review Note Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel