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2001 MAY -2 P 11: 44

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Regular Session, 2001



ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 504

(By Senators Minard and Kessler)



PASSED April 14, 2001

In Effect 90 days from **Passage**

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Senate Bill No. 504

(BY SENATORS MINARD AND KESSLER)

[Passed April 14, 2001; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to repeal sections four and twenty, article one, chapter thirty-three of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended; to repeal sections eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one and thirty-two, article three of said chapter; to amend and reenact section one of said article; and to further amend said chapter by adding thereto a new article, designated article forty-three, all relating to the remedies available to West Virginia residents harmed by unauthorized insurers; defining the unlawful transaction of insurance; establishing the method for service of process on unauthorized insurers; providing for injunctive relief; providing for administrative relief; providing for civil relief; including payment of interest, restitution and punitive damages; establishing criminal penalties; bond requirements; requirements for proof of federal regulation; establishing procedures for collection and distribution of

restitution to West Virginia residents harmed by unauthorized insurers; procedure for enforcement of foreign decrees; and exemptions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections four and twenty, article one, chapter thirty-three of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be repealed; that sections eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one and thirty-two, article three of said chapter be repealed; that section one of said article be amended and reenacted; and that said chapter be further amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article forty-three, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. LICENSING, FEES AND TAXATION OF INSURERS.

§33-3-1. License required.

1 (a) No person may act as an insurer and no insurer may
2 transact insurance in West Virginia except as authorized
3 by a valid license issued by the commissioner, except as to
4 the transactions as are expressly otherwise provided for in
5 this chapter.

6 (b) No license may be required for an insurer, formerly
7 holding a valid license, to enable it to investigate and
8 settle losses under its policies lawfully written in West
9 Virginia while the license was in effect, or to liquidate the
10 assets and liabilities of the insurer as may have resulted
11 from its former authorized operations in West Virginia:
12 *Provided*, That nothing herein allows an insurer to issue
13 new policies or renew policies of insurance or collect
14 premiums on those policies unless the insurer is authorized
15 by a valid license issued by the commissioner, except as to
16 the transactions that are otherwise provided for in this
17 chapter.

18 (c) An insurer not transacting new insurance business in
 19 West Virginia but collecting premiums on and servicing of
 20 policies in force as to residents of or risks located in West
 21 Virginia, and where the policies were originally issued on
 22 nonresidents of or risks located outside of this state, is
 23 transacting insurance in West Virginia for the purpose of
 24 premium and annuity tax requirements but is not required
 25 to have a license therefor.

26 (d) A domestic insurer or a foreign insurer from offices
 27 or by personnel or facilities located in this state may not
 28 solicit insurance applications or otherwise transact
 29 insurance in another state or country unless it holds a
 30 subsisting license granted to it by the commissioner
 31 authorizing it to transact the same kind or kinds of
 32 insurance in this state.

33 (e) Any officer, director, agent, representative or em-
 34 ployee of any insurer who willfully authorizes, negotiates,
 35 makes or issues any insurance contract in violation of this
 36 section shall be subject to the provisions set forth in article
 37 forty-three of this chapter.

ARTICLE 43. UNAUTHORIZED INSURERS ACT.

§33-43-1. Short title.

1 This article may be cited as the “Unauthorized Insurers
 2 Act”.

**§33-43-2. Purpose of enactment of provisions regarding unau-
 thorized insurers.**

1 The purpose of this article is to subject certain persons
 2 and insurers to the jurisdiction of the commissioner and to
 3 the courts of this state in suits by or on behalf of the state.
 4 The Legislature declares that it is concerned with the
 5 protection of residents of this state against unscrupulous
 6 acts by insurers not authorized to transact an insurance
 7 business in this state. It is the intent of the Legislature to
 8 maintain fair and honest insurance markets, to protect

9 authorized insurers which are subject to regulation from
10 unfair competition by unauthorized insurers, and to
11 protect against the evasion of the insurance regulatory
12 laws of this state. The Legislature declares that it is a
13 subject of concern that certain insurers, while not licensed
14 to transact insurance in this state, are soliciting the sale of
15 insurance and selling insurance to residents of this state,
16 thus presenting the insurance commissioner with the
17 problem of resorting to courts of foreign jurisdictions for
18 the purpose of enforcing the insurance laws of this state
19 for the protection of our citizens. The Legislature declares
20 that it is also a subject of concern that many residents of
21 this state hold policies of insurance issued or delivered in
22 this state by insurers not licensed to transact insurance in
23 this state, thus presenting to the residents the often
24 insurmountable obstacle of resorting to distant fora for the
25 purpose of asserting legal rights under these policies. In
26 furtherance of the state interest, the Legislature herein
27 provides a method of substituted service of process upon
28 the insurers and declares that in so doing it exercises its
29 powers to protect its residents and to define, for the
30 purpose of this article, what constitutes transacting
31 insurance in this state.

§33-43-3. Definitions.

1 (a) "Administrator" or "third-party administrator"
2 means, as used in this article unless otherwise indicated, a
3 person who for residents of this state, or for residents of
4 another jurisdiction from a place of business in this state,
5 performs administrative functions including claims
6 administration or payment, marketing, premium account-
7 ing, premium billing, coverage verification, underwriting
8 authority or certificate issuance in regard to insurance.

9 (b) "Assist" means to aid, counsel, represent, opine,
10 administer or, in any capacity, to help another.

11 (c) "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner
12 for the state of West Virginia.

13 (d) "Effectuating" means to bring about; to effect.

14 (e) "Foreign decree" means any decree or order of a
15 court located in a reciprocal state or other state including
16 a court of the United States located therein, against any
17 insurer incorporated or authorized to do business in this
18 state or against any unauthorized insurer with its princi-
19 pal place of business located in this state.

20 (f) "Insurance" is a contract whereby one undertakes to
21 indemnify another or to pay a specified amount upon
22 determinable contingencies.

23 (g) "Insured" means, as used in this article unless
24 otherwise indicated, any individual, member, named
25 insured, beneficiary, subscriber or group who has obtained
26 insurance from an unauthorized insurer or who is insured
27 under a contract of insurance obtained from an unautho-
28 rized insurer.

29 (h) "Insurer" means, as used in this article unless
30 otherwise indicated, any person engaged in the transaction
31 of insurance.

32 (i) "Negotiation" means, as used in this article unless
33 otherwise indicated, the deliberation, discussion or
34 conference upon the terms of a proposed agreement; it is
35 that which passes between parties or their agents in the
36 course of or incident to the making of a contract; to
37 conduct communications or conferences with a view to
38 reaching an agreement.

39 (j) "Person" means, as used in this article unless other-
40 wise indicated, any natural person or entity, including, but
41 not limited to, individuals, partnerships, associations,
42 bona fide associations, trusts, trustees, companies, insur-
43 ers, unauthorized insurers, organizations, societies,
44 reciprocals, syndicates, administrators, third-party
45 administrators, agents, producers, advertisers, customer
46 service representatives, promoters, officers, directors,
47 lawyers, incorporators or any other legal entity.

48 (k) "Principal place of business" means the single state
49 in which the policy for the direction, control and coordina-
50 tion of the operations of the insurer as a whole are primar-
51 ily exercised, with consideration being given to, but not
52 limited to:

53 (1) The state in which the primary executive and admin-
54 istrative headquarters of the entity is located;

55 (2) The state in which the principal office of the chief
56 executive officer of the entity is located;

57 (3) The state in which the board of directors (or similar
58 governing body) of the entity conducts the majority of its
59 meetings;

60 (4) The state in which the executive or management
61 committee of the board of directors (or similar governing
62 body) of the entity conducts the majority of its meetings;
63 and

64 (5) The state from which the management of the overall
65 operations of the entity is directed.

66 (l) "Procure" means to cause a thing to be done, to
67 instigate, contrive, bring about, effect or cause; to per-
68 suade, induce or prevail upon; it is the act of obtaining,
69 attainment or acquisition.

70 (m) "Qualified party" means a state regulatory agency
71 acting in its capacity to enforce the insurance laws of its
72 state.

73 (n) "Reciprocal state" means any state or territory of the
74 United States the laws of which contain procedures
75 substantially similar to those specified in this section for
76 the enforcement of decrees or orders issued by courts
77 located in the states or territories of the United States,
78 against any insurer incorporated or authorized to do
79 business in such state or territory or any unauthorized
80 insurer with its principal place of business in such state or
81 territory.

82 (o) "Solicitation" and "solicit" means attempting to sell
83 insurance or asking or urging a person to apply for a
84 particular kind of insurance from a particular company,
85 including without limitation, providing rate comparisons
86 of various insurers based on information provided by the
87 person.

88 (p) "Transaction of insurance" means that for purposes
89 of this article, any of the following acts in this state
90 effected by mail or otherwise is considered to constitute
91 the transaction of an insurance business in or from this
92 state:

93 (1) The making of or proposing to make an insurance
94 contract;

95 (2) The making of or proposing to make, as guarantor or
96 surety, any contract of guaranty or suretyship as a voca-
97 tion and not merely incidental to any other legitimate
98 business or activity of the guarantor or surety;

99 (3) The taking or receiving of an application for insur-
100 ance;

101 (4) The receiving or collection of any premium, commis-
102 sion, membership fees, assessments, dues or other consid-
103 eration required for obtaining or renewing insurance;

104 (5) The issuance or delivery in this state of certificates or
105 contracts of insurance to residents of this state or to
106 persons authorized to do business in this state;

107 (6) The solicitation, negotiation, procurement or effectu-
108 ation of insurance or renewals thereof;

109 (7) The dissemination of information as to coverage or
110 rates, or forwarding of applications, or delivery of policies
111 or contracts, or inspection of risks, the fixing of rates or
112 investigation or adjustment of claims or losses or the
113 transaction of matters subsequent to effectuation of the
114 contract and arising out of it, or any other manner of
115 representing or assisting a person or insurer in the transac-

116 tion of insurance with respect to any risk or exposure
117 located or to be performed in this state;

118 (8) The transaction of any kind of insurance business
119 specifically recognized as transacting an insurance busi-
120 ness within the meaning of the statutes relating to insur-
121 ance;

122 (9) The offering of insurance or the transacting of
123 insurance business; or

124 (10) Offering an agreement or contract which purports
125 to alter, amend or void coverage of an insurance contract.

126 (q) "Unauthorized insurer" means a person or insurer
127 engaged in the transaction of insurance without a license
128 in force pursuant to the laws of this state unless exempted
129 by the insurance laws of this state, or any person assisting
130 an unauthorized insurer.

§33-43-4. Unlawful transaction of insurance.

1 (a) It is unlawful for any person to engage in any act
2 which constitutes the transaction of insurance under the
3 provisions of this article unless authorized by a license in
4 force pursuant to the laws of this state, or unless exempted
5 by the insurance laws of this state. Any person or insurer
6 engaged in any act which constitutes the unauthorized
7 transaction of insurance shall be subject to the provisions
8 contained in chapter thirty-three of the code and the
9 provisions and penalties set forth in this article.

10 (b) It is unlawful for any person to, directly or indirectly,
11 represent, aid, counsel, opine, administer, assist in any
12 manner or capacity or otherwise act as an agent for or on
13 behalf of an unauthorized insurer in the unauthorized
14 transaction of insurance. Any person who represents, aids
15 or assists, in any manner or capacity, an unauthorized
16 insurer in violation of this article shall be subject to the
17 provisions and penalties set forth in this article.

18 (c) An unauthorized insurer shall be bound by the terms
19 of the insurance contract, certificate or agreement as if the
20 contract, certificate or agreement were legally procured
21 under the insurance laws of this state.

22 (d) This article does not apply to: (i) Any transaction for
23 which a license is not required pursuant to section one,
24 article three of this code, including the lawful transaction
25 of surplus lines insurance and reinsurance by insurers; (ii)
26 transactions in this state relative to a policy issued or to be
27 issued outside this state involving insurance on cargo
28 vessels, their craft or hulls, their cargoes, marine builder's
29 risk, commercial marine protection and indemnity or other
30 risk, including strikes and war risks commonly insured
31 under ocean marine forms of policy; (iii) transactions in
32 this state involving group life insurance, group accident
33 and sickness insurance or group annuities providing
34 coverage under policies that are recognized under articles
35 fourteen and sixteen, respectively, of this chapter where:
36 (1) The master policy of such groups was lawfully issued
37 and delivered in and pursuant to the laws of a state in
38 which the insurer was authorized to do an insurance
39 business, to a group organized for purposes other than the
40 procurement of insurance, and where the policyholder is
41 domiciled or otherwise has a bona fide situs; and (2) except
42 for group annuities, the insurer complies with section
43 thirty-five, article six of this chapter. The commissioner
44 may require the insurer which has issued such master
45 policy to submit such information as the commissioner
46 requires in order to determine if probable cause exists to
47 convene a hearing to determine whether the total charges
48 for the insurance to the persons insured are reasonable in
49 relation to the benefits provided under such policy.

§33-43-5. Service of process on unauthorized insurers.

1 (a) Any act of transacting insurance by any unautho-
2 rized insurer is equivalent to and constitutes an irrevoca-
3 ble appointment by an unauthorized insurer, binding upon
4 him or her, his or her executor or administrator, or succes-

5 sor in interest, of the secretary of state or his or her
6 successor in office, to be the true and lawful attorney of an
7 unauthorized insurer upon whom may be served all lawful
8 process in any action, suit or proceeding in any court by
9 the commissioner, the state or an insured and upon whom
10 may be served any notice, order, pleading or process in any
11 proceeding before the commissioner and which arises out
12 of transacting an insurance business in this state by such
13 an insurer. Any act of transacting insurance in this state
14 by any unauthorized insurer or any person acting in
15 furtherance of an unauthorized insurer's business, signifies
16 the agreement of the person or unauthorized insurer that
17 any lawful process in such a court action, suit or proceed-
18 ing or any notice, order, pleading or process in an adminis-
19 trative proceeding before the commissioner so served is of
20 the same legal force and validity as personal service or
21 process in this state upon an insurer.

22 (b) Service of process in an action must be made by
23 delivering to and leaving with the secretary of state, or
24 some person in apparent charge of his or her office, two
25 copies thereof and by payment to the secretary of state the
26 fee prescribed by section two, article one, chapter fifty-
27 nine of this code together with any other fees prescribed
28 by law. Service upon the secretary of state as attorney is
29 service upon the principal.

30 (c) Upon receipt by the secretary of state of two copies
31 of the process to be served, and the payment of all relevant
32 fees, the secretary of state shall cause the process to be
33 served in the manner prescribed in subsection (d) of this
34 section.

35 (d) The secretary of state shall forward a copy of the
36 process by registered or certified mail to the unauthorized
37 insurer or any person acting in furtherance of an unautho-
38 rized insurer's business at its last-known principal place
39 of business and shall keep a record of all process so served
40 upon the person or unauthorized insurer. Service of
41 process is sufficient, provided notice of service and a copy

42 of the process are sent within ten days thereafter by or on
43 behalf of the moving party to the responding party, at its
44 last-known principal place of business by registered or
45 certified mail with return receipt requested. The moving
46 party shall file with the clerk of the court in which the
47 action is pending, or with the judge or magistrate of the
48 court in case there be no clerk, or in the official records of
49 the commissioner if an administrative proceeding before
50 the commissioner, an affidavit of compliance herewith, a
51 copy of the process and either a return receipt purporting
52 to be signed by the defendant or responding party or a
53 person qualified to receive its registered or certified mail
54 in accordance with the rules and customs of the post-office
55 department; or, if acceptance was refused by the defendant
56 or responding party or an agent thereof, the original
57 envelope bearing a notation by the postal authorities that
58 receipt was refused. Service of process so made is consid-
59 ered to have been made within the territorial jurisdiction
60 of any court in this state.

61 (e) In addition to the manner provided in subsection (d)
62 of this section, service of process in any action, suit or
63 administrative proceeding shall be valid if served upon
64 any person who engages in any act which constitutes the
65 transaction of unauthorized insurance: *Provided*, That
66 notice of service and a copy of process are sent within ten
67 days thereafter, by or on behalf of the moving party to the
68 responding party at the last-known principal place of
69 business of the responding party, by registered or certified
70 mail with return receipt requested. The moving party
71 shall file with the clerk of the court in which the action is
72 pending, or with the judge or magistrate of the court in
73 case there be no clerk, or in the official records of the
74 commissioner if an administrative proceeding before the
75 commissioner, an affidavit of compliance herewith, a copy
76 of the process and either a return receipt purporting to be
77 signed by the responding party, or a person qualified to
78 receive its registered or certified mail in accordance with

79 the rules and customs of the post-office department; or, if
80 acceptance was refused by the responding party or an
81 agent thereof, the original envelope bearing a notation by
82 the postal authorities that receipt was refused. In the
83 instance that service of process is refused by the respond-
84 ing party or an agent thereof, service shall be considered
85 sufficient to bestow jurisdiction on the tribunal in which
86 the action was filed.

87 (f) The papers referred to in subsections (d) and (e) of
88 this section shall be filed within thirty days after the
89 return receipt or other official proof of delivery or the
90 original envelope bearing a notation of refusal, as the case
91 may be, is received by the moving party. Service of
92 process shall be complete ten days after the process and
93 the accompanying papers are filed in accordance with this
94 section.

95 (g) Nothing contained in this section shall limit or
96 abridge the right to serve any process, notice or demand
97 upon any unauthorized insurer or upon any person en-
98 gaged in the transaction of insurance in any other manner
99 now or hereafter permitted by law.

100 (h) For the purposes of this section, "process" in an
101 action in a court includes only a summons or the initial
102 documents served in an action. The secretary of state is
103 not required to serve any documents in an action after the
104 initial service of process.

§33-43-6. Injunctive relief.

1 (a) Whenever the commissioner believes, from evidence
2 satisfactory to him or her, that any insurer is violating or
3 is about to violate the provisions of this article, in addition
4 to the administrative remedies available in this article, the
5 commissioner may cause a complaint to be filed in any
6 appropriate circuit court of this state seeking to enjoin and

7 restrain the insurer from continuing the violation or
8 engaging therein or doing any act in furtherance thereof.

9 (b) The circuit court shall have jurisdiction of the
10 proceeding and have the power to make and enter an order
11 or judgment awarding preliminary or final injunctive
12 relief as in its judgment is proper. The commissioner may
13 elect to file a complaint in any circuit where transactions
14 have occurred or in the circuit court of Kanawha County.

§33-43-7. Administrative relief.

1 (a) Any person engaged in any act which constitutes the
2 unauthorized transaction of insurance as set forth in this
3 article may, after notice and hearing pursuant to section
4 thirteen, article two of this chapter, be fined by the
5 commissioner a sum not to exceed twenty thousand dollars
6 for each unauthorized act or transaction of unauthorized
7 insurance.

8 (b) Any person engaged in any act which constitutes the
9 unauthorized transaction of insurance as set forth in this
10 article may be assessed restitution by the insurance
11 commissioner in an amount sufficient to reimburse any
12 and all insureds for the unpaid claims, if, after notice and
13 hearing pursuant to section thirteen, article two of this
14 chapter, the commissioner finds that the unauthorized
15 insurer has failed to pay claims of its insureds in accor-
16 dance with the terms of the contracts.

§33-43-8. Civil relief.

1 (a) No insurance contract entered into in violation of
2 this article shall preclude the insured from enforcing his or
3 her rights under the contract in accordance with the terms
4 and provisions of the contract and the laws of this state
5 against any unauthorized insurer or any person assisting
6 the unauthorized insurer to the same degree those rights
7 would have been enforceable had the contract been
8 lawfully procured.

9 (b) No insurance contract entered into in violation of
10 this article shall preclude a provider of health care services
11 from enforcing the rights of the insured under the contract
12 in accordance with the terms and provisions of the con-
13 tract and the laws of this state against any unauthorized
14 insurer or any person assisting the unauthorized insurer
15 pursuant to an assignment of rights executed between the
16 insured and the health care provider.

17 (c) In an action against an unauthorized insurer upon a
18 contract of insurance issued or delivered to a resident of
19 this state or to a corporation authorized to do business in
20 this state, if the trier of fact finds by a preponderance of
21 the evidence that the unauthorized insurer has failed to
22 make payment in accordance with the terms of the con-
23 tract, the trier of fact shall award to the insured or the
24 health care provider:

25 (1) Contract damages in accordance with the terms and
26 provisions of the contract and the laws of this state to the
27 same degree those rights would have been enforceable had
28 the contract been lawfully procured;

29 (2) Simple interest at a rate of prime plus one percent on
30 the total amount awarded as restitution, accruing from the
31 date payment was due;

32 (3) If in addition to a finding that the unauthorized
33 insurer has failed to make payment in accordance with the
34 terms of the contract, the trier of fact finds by a prepon-
35 derance of the evidence that failure to make payment was
36 without reasonable cause, the trier of fact shall award the
37 plaintiff a reasonable attorney fee and include the fee in
38 any judgment that may be rendered in the action. The fee
39 shall not exceed thirty-three percent of the amount that
40 the trier of fact finds the plaintiff is entitled to recover
41 against the unauthorized insurer;

42 (4) If in addition to a finding that the unauthorized
43 insurer has failed to make payment in accordance with the

44 terms of the contract, the trier of fact further finds that
45 failure to make payment was willful, wanton and mali-
46 cious, the trier of fact may award the plaintiff punitive
47 damages in an amount that the trier of fact finds the
48 plaintiff is entitled to recover against the insurer.

§33-43-9. Criminal penalties.

1 Any unauthorized insurer who violates the provisions of
2 this article is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction
3 thereof, may be fined not more than twenty thousand
4 dollars per each unauthorized act or transaction of unau-
5 thorized insurance or confined in the state correctional
6 facility not less than one nor more than five years, or both
7 fined and imprisoned.

§33-43-10. Defense of action or proceeding by unauthorized insurer; bond requirements.

1 (a) Before any unauthorized insurer shall file or cause to
2 be filed any pleading in any action, suit or proceeding
3 instituted against it, or any notice, order, pleading or
4 process in an administrative proceeding before the com-
5 missioner instituted against the insurer, the unauthorized
6 insurer shall either:

7 (1) Deposit with the clerk of the court in which the
8 action, suit or proceeding is pending, or with the commis-
9 sioner in an administrative proceeding, cash or securities
10 or file with the clerk or the commissioner a bond with
11 good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the court or
12 the commissioner, in an amount to be fixed by the court or
13 commissioner sufficient to secure the payment of any final
14 judgment which may be rendered in the action or adminis-
15 trative proceeding; or

16 (2) Deposit with the clerk of the court in which the
17 action, suit or proceeding is pending, or with the commis-
18 sioner in an administrative proceeding, cash or securities
19 or file with the clerk or the commissioner a bond with
20 good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the court or

21 the commissioner, in an amount required to procure a
22 license to transact insurance in this state pursuant to the
23 provisions contained within article three of this chapter.

24 (b) The court or the commissioner in any action, suit or
25 proceeding in which service is made in the manner pro-
26 vided in subsection (d) or (e), section five of this article,
27 may, in its, his or her respective discretion, order the
28 postponement as may be necessary to afford the respond-
29 ing party reasonable opportunity to comply with the
30 provisions of subsection (a) of this section and thereafter
31 to defend the action or proceeding.

**§33-43-11. Person providing specified coverage; proof of regu-
lation by a federal government agency.**

1 (a) Any person who transacts insurance, transacts an
2 insurance business or provides insurance coverage in this
3 state for the cost of:

4 (1) Medical care;

5 (2) Surgery;

6 (3) Chiropractic;

7 (4) Physical therapy;

8 (5) Speech pathology;

9 (6) Audiology;

10 (7) Professional care of mental health;

11 (8) Dental care;

12 (9) Hospital care; or

13 (10) Ophthalmic care, whether the coverage provides for
14 direct payment, reimbursement or any other method of
15 payment, is subject to regulation by the commissioner and
16 to the provisions of this code unless he or she shows that

17 while transacting insurance, or transacting an insurance
18 business or providing the coverage he or she is subject to
19 regulation by an agency of the federal government.

20 (b) A person may show that he or she is subject to
21 regulation by an agency of the federal government by
22 providing the commissioner with an advisory opinion
23 issued pursuant to ERISA Procedure 76-1, 41 Federal
24 Register 36281 (Aug. 27, 1976).

**§33-43-12. Collection, maintenance and distribution of restitu-
tion to insureds.**

1 All restitution ordered by the commissioner pursuant to
2 the authority set forth in section seven of this article and
3 received from unauthorized insurers shall be collected by
4 the commissioner and distributed to the affected insureds
5 on a pro rata basis. The commissioner shall maintain a
6 record reflecting the names of each of the insureds for
7 which the restitution was ordered, the total amount of the
8 unpaid claims for each of the insureds to which the
9 restitution will be paid and the actual amount of restitu-
10 tion to be paid to the insured. The commissioner shall
11 likewise maintain an account into which restitution
12 received shall be placed until it is distributed to the
13 affected insureds.

§33-43-13. Enforcement of foreign decrees.

1 (a) The commissioner may proceed in the courts of this
2 state, any reciprocal state or any other state to enforce an
3 order or decision in any court proceeding or in any admin-
4 istrative proceeding before the commissioner.

5 (b) The commissioner shall determine which states and
6 territories qualify as reciprocal states.

7 (c) A certified copy of any foreign decree may be filed in
8 the office of the clerk of any circuit court of this state. The
9 clerk of the circuit court, upon verifying with the commis-
10 sioner that the decree or order qualified as a foreign

11 decree, shall treat the foreign decree in the same manner
12 as a decree of a circuit court of this state. A foreign
13 decree, so filed, has the same effect and is considered as a
14 decree of a circuit court of this state, and is subject to the
15 same procedures, defenses and proceedings for reopening,
16 vacating or staying a decree of a circuit court of this state
17 and may be enforced or satisfied in like manner.

18 (d) At the time of the filing of the foreign decree,
19 counsel for the commissioner shall make and file with the
20 clerk of the circuit court an affidavit setting forth the
21 name and last known post-office address of the defendant.
22 Promptly upon the filing of the foreign decree and the
23 affidavit, the clerk of the circuit court shall mail notice of
24 the filing of the foreign decree to the defendant at the
25 address given and to the commissioner and shall make a
26 note of the mailing in the docket. In addition, counsel for
27 the commissioner may mail a notice of the filing of the
28 foreign decree to the defendant and to the commissioner
29 and may file proof of mailing with the clerk of the circuit
30 court. Lack of mailing notice of filing by the clerk of the
31 circuit court may not affect the enforcement proceedings
32 if proof of mailing by the counsel for the commissioner has
33 been filed. No execution or other process for enforcement
34 of a foreign decree filing under this section may issue until
35 thirty days after the date the decree is filed.

36 (e) If the defendant shows the circuit court:

37 (1) That an appeal from the foreign decree is pending or
38 will be taken, or that a stay of execution has been granted,
39 the court shall stay enforcement of the foreign decree until
40 the appeal is concluded, the time for appeal expires or the
41 stay of execution expires or is vacated upon proof that the
42 defendant has furnished the security for the satisfaction of
43 the decree required by the state in which it was rendered.

44 (2) Any ground upon which enforcement of a decree of
45 any circuit court of this state would be stayed, the court
46 may stay enforcement of the foreign decree.

47 (f) Any person filing a foreign decree shall pay to the
48 clerk of the circuit court such fees as are required by law.

[Faint, illegible handwritten marks]

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Gregory A. Mays
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

J. James Smith
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Roseell E. Galt
.....
Clerk of the Senate

Gregory M. Burt
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Earl Ray Tomblin
.....
President of the Senate

Robert W. Witt
.....
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *2nd*
Day of *May* , 2001.

Bob Witt
.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date 4/30/07

Time 2:45 pm