WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 17D ARTICLE 4

WV Legislature

§17D-4-1.

Repealed.

Acts, 1990 Reg. Sess., Ch. 137.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-2. "Proof of financial responsibility" defined.

As used in this chapter:

(a) "Proof of financial responsibility" means proof of ability to respond in damages for liability, on account of accident occurring subsequent to the effective date of the proof, arising out of the ownership, operation, maintenance or use of a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer in the amount of $20,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident, and, subject to the limit for one person, in the amount of $40,000 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, and in the amount of $10,000 because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2016, "proof of financial responsibility" means proof of ability to respond in damages for liability, on account of accident occurring subsequent to the effective date of the proof, arising out of the ownership, operation, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer in the amount of $25,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident, and, subject to the limit for one person, in the amount of $50,000 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, and in the amount of $25,000 because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident: Provided, That proof of financial responsibility provided by an insurance policy in effect on December 31, 2015 in the minimum amounts required in subdivision (a) of this section shall continue to provide adequate proof of financial responsibility required by this chapter until the policy expires or is renewed.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-3. Additional definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall, for the purpose of this chapter, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section:

(a) The term "judgment" shall mean: Any judgment which shall have become final by expiration without appeal of the time within which an appeal might have been perfected, or by final affirmation on appeal, rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction of any state or of the United States, upon a cause of action arising out of the ownership, operation, maintenance, or use of any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer for damages, including damages for care and loss of services, because of bodily injury to or death of any person, or for damages because of injury to or destruction of property, including the loss of use thereof, or upon a cause of action on an agreement of settlement for such damages.

(b) The term "license" shall mean: Any license, temporary instruction permit, or temporary license issued under the laws of this state pertaining to the licensing of persons to operate motor vehicles.

(c) The term "nonresident operating privilege" shall mean: The privilege conferred upon a nonresident by the laws of this state pertaining to the operation by him of a motor vehicle, or the use of a vehicle owned by him in this state.

(d) The term "registration" shall mean: The registration certificate or certificates and registration plates issued under the laws of this state pertaining to the registration of vehicles.

(e) The term "state" shall mean: Any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or any province of the Dominion of Canada.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-4. When courts to report nonpayment of judgments.

Whenever any person fails within thirty days to satisfy any judgment, then upon the written request of the judgment creditor or his attorney it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court, or of the judge of a court which has no clerk, in which any such judgment is rendered within this state to forward to the commissioner immediately upon such request a certified copy of such judgment.

If the defendant named in any certified copy of a judgment reported to the commissioner is a nonresident, the commissioner shall transmit a certified copy of the judgment to the official in charge of the issuance of licenses and registrations of the state of which the defendant is a resident.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-5. Suspension for nonpayment of judgments; exceptions.

(a) The commissioner upon receipt of a certified copy of a judgment, shall forthwith suspend the license and registration and any nonresident's operating privilege of any person against whom such judgment was rendered, except as hereinafter otherwise provided in this section and in section eight of this article.

(b) If the judgment creditor consents in writing, in such form as the commissioner may prescribe, that the judgment debtor be allowed license and registration or nonresident's operating privilege, the same may be allowed by the commissioner, in his discretion, for six months from the date of such consent and thereafter until such consent is revoked in writing, notwithstanding default in the payment of such judgment, or of any installments thereof prescribed in section eight of this article.

(c) The commissioner shall not, however, suspend a license, registration, or nonresident's operating privilege of any person if the insurance applicable to such person or the vehicle being operated by him was with a company which was authorized to transact business in this state and which, subsequent to an accident involving the owner or driver and prior to settlement of the claim therefor went into liquidation so that no benefit accrued to the owner or driver by reason of having provided such insurance.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-6. Suspension to continue until judgments paid and proof given; effect of discharge in bankruptcy.

(a) Such license, registration and nonresident's operating privileges shall remain so suspended and shall not be renewed, nor shall any such license or registration be thereafter issued in the name of such person, including any person not previously licensed, unless and until every such judgment is stayed, satisfied in full or to the extent hereinafter provided subject to the exemptions stated in sections five and eight of this article.

(b) A discharge in bankruptcy following the rendering of any such judgment shall not relieve the judgment debtor from any of the requirements of this article.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-7. Payments sufficient to satisfy requirements.

(a) Judgments herein referred to shall, for the purpose of this chapter only, are deemed satisfied:

(1) When $20,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of bodily injury to or death of one person as the result of any one accident; or

(2) When, subject to such limit of $20,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person, the sum of $40,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons as the result of any one accident; or

(3) When $10,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of injury to or destruction of property of others as a result of any one accident.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, judgments herein referred to that are rendered upon a cause of action that arose on or after January 1, 2016, for the purpose of this chapter only, are deemed satisfied:

(1) When $25,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of bodily injury to or death of one person as the result of any one accident; or

(2) When, subject to such limit of $25,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person, the sum of $50,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons as the result of any one accident; or

(3) When $25,000 has been credited upon any judgment or judgments rendered in excess of that amount because of injury to or destruction of property of others as a result of any one accident.

(c) Payments made in settlement of any claims because of bodily injury, death or property damage arising from such accident shall be credited in reduction of the amounts provided for in this section.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-8. Installment payment of judgments; default.

(a) A judgment debtor upon five days' notice to the judgment creditor may, for the sole purpose of giving authority to the commissioner to authorize such judgment debtor to operate a motor vehicle thereafter, apply to the court in which such judgment was rendered for the privilege of paying such judgment in installments and the court, in its discretion and without prejudice to any other legal remedies which the judgment creditor may have, may so order and fix the amounts and times of payment of the installments.

(b) The commissioner shall not suspend a license, registration, or nonresident's operating privilege, and shall restore any license, registration, or nonresident's operating privilege suspended following nonpayment of a judgment, when the judgment debtor obtains such an order permitting the payment of such judgment in installments, and while the payment of any said installment is not in default.

(c) In the event the judgment debtor fails to pay any installment as specified by such order, then upon notice of such default, the commissioner shall forthwith suspend the license, registration, or nonresident's operating privilege of the judgment debtor until such judgment is satisfied, as provided in this chapter.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-9.

Repealed.

Acts, 1990 Reg. Sess., Ch. 137.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-10.

Repealed.

Acts, 1990 Reg. Sess., Ch. 137.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-11.

Repealed.

Acts, 1990 Reg. Sess., Ch. 137.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-12. "Motor vehicle liability policy" defined; scope and provisions of policy.

(a) A "motor vehicle liability policy" as the term is used in this chapter means an "owner's policy" or an "operator's policy" of liability insurance certified as provided in section ten or section eleven of this article as proof of financial responsibility, and issued, except as otherwise provided in section eleven, by an insurance carrier duly authorized to transact business in this state, to or for the benefit of the person named therein as insured.

(b) Such owner's policy of liability insurance:

(1) Shall designate by explicit description or by appropriate reference all vehicles with respect to which coverage is thereby to be granted; and

(2) Shall insure the person named therein and any other person, as insured, using any such vehicle or vehicles with the express or implied permission of such named insured, against loss from the liability imposed by law for damages arising out of the ownership, operation, maintenance or use of such vehicle or vehicles within the United States of America or the Dominion of Canada, subject to limits exclusive of interest and costs, with respect to each such vehicle, in the amounts required in section two of this article.

(c) Such operator's policy of liability insurance shall insure the person named as insured therein against loss from the liability imposed upon him or her by law for damages arising out of the use by him or her of any motor vehicle not owned by him or her, within the same territorial limits and subject to the same limits of liability as are set forth above with respect to an owner's policy of liability insurance.

(d) Such motor vehicle liability policy shall state the name and address of the named insured, the coverage afforded by the policy, the premium charged therefor, the policy period, and the limits of liability, and shall contain an agreement or be endorsed that insurance is provided thereunder in accordance with the coverage defined in this chapter as respects bodily injury and death or property damage, or both, and is subject to all the provisions of this chapter.

(e) Such motor vehicle liability policy need not insure any liability under any workers' compensation law nor any liability on account of bodily injury to or death of an employee of the insured while engaged in the employment, other than domestic, of the insured, or while engaged in the operation, maintenance or repair of any such vehicle nor any liability for damage to property owned by, rented to, in charge of or transported by the insured.

(f) Every motor vehicle liability policy is subject to the following provisions which need not be contained therein:

(1) The liability of the insurance carrier with respect to the insurance required by this chapter shall become absolute whenever injury or damage covered by said motor vehicle liability policy occurs; the policy may not be canceled or annulled as to such liability by an

WV Legislature

agreement between the insurance carrier and the insured after the occurrence of the injury or damage; no statement made by the insured or on his or her behalf and no violation of the policy defeats or voids the policy.

(2) The satisfaction by the insured of a judgment for such injury or damage is not a condition precedent to the right or duty of the insurance carrier to make payment on account of such injury or damage.

(3) The insurance carrier may settle any claim covered by the policy, and if such settlement is made in good faith, the amount thereof shall be deductible from the limits of liability specified in subdivision (2), subsection (b) of this section.

(4) The policy, the written application therefor, if any, and any rider or endorsement which does not conflict with the provisions of this chapter constitutes the entire contract between parties.

(g) Any policy which grants the coverage required for a motor vehicle liability policy may also grant any lawful coverage in excess of or in addition to the coverage specified for a motor vehicle liability policy and such excess or additional coverage is not subject to the provisions of this chapter. With respect to a policy which grants such excess or additional coverage, the term "motor vehicle liability policy" applies only to that part of the coverage which is required by this section.

(h) Any motor vehicle liability policy may provide that the insured shall reimburse the insurance carrier for any payment the insurance carrier would not have been obligated to make under the terms of the policy except for the provisions of this chapter.

(i) Any motor vehicle liability policy may provide for the prorating of the insurance thereunder with other valid and collectible insurance.

(j) The requirements for a motor vehicle liability policy may be fulfilled by the policies of one or more insurance carriers which policies together meet such requirements.

(k) Any binder issued pending the issuance of a motor vehicle policy fulfills the requirements for such a policy.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-13.

Repealed.

Acts, 1990 Reg. Sess., Ch. 137.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-14. Chapter not to affect other policies.

(a) This chapter shall not be held to apply to or affect policies of automobile insurance against liability which may now or hereafter be required by any other law of this state and such policies, if they contain an agreement or are endorsed to conform with the requirements of this chapter, may be certified as proof of financial responsibility under this chapter.

(b) This chapter shall not be held to apply to or affect policies insuring solely the insured named in the policy against liability resulting from the maintenance or use by persons in the insured's employ or on his behalf of vehicles not owned by the insured.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-15.

Repealed.

Acts, 2006 Reg. Sess., Ch. 164.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-16.

Repealed.

Acts, 2006 Reg. Sess., Ch. 164.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-17.

Repealed.

Acts, 2006 Reg. Sess., Ch. 164.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-18.

Repealed.

Acts, 2006 Reg. Sess., Ch. 164.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-19.

Repealed.

Acts, 2006 Reg. Sess., Ch. 164.

WV Legislature

§17D-4-20.

Repealed.

Acts, 1990 Reg. Sess., Ch. ____.

WV Legislature