WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1949

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 347

(By Mr. Trent)

PASSED March 12 1949

In Effect From Passage
ENROLLED

House Bill No. 347

(By Mr. Trent, by request)

[Passed March 12, 1949; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section seven, article four, chapter thirty-three of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to fire and marine insurance.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section seven, article four, chapter thirty-three of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 7. Form of Fire Policies.—(a) The printed form of a policy of fire insurance, as set forth in subsection (f) shall be known and designated as the standard fire insurance policy of the state of West Virginia.

(b) No policy or contract of fire insurance shall be made, issued or delivered by any insurer or by any agent or representative thereof, on any property in this state,
unless it shall conform as to all provisions, stipulations, agreements and conditions, with such form of policy:

Provided, however, That any company organized under special charter provisions may so indicate upon its policy, and may add a statement of the plan under which it operates in this state.

There shall be printed at the head of said policy the name of the insurer or insurers issuing the policy; the location of the home office thereof; a statement whether said insurer or insurers are stock or mutual corporations; and there may be added thereto such device or devices as the insurer or insurers issuing said policy shall desire.

The standard fire insurance policy provided for herein need not be used for effective reinsurance between insurers.

If the policy is issued by a mutual insurer having special regulations with respect to the payment by the policyholder of assessments, such regulations shall be printed upon the policy, and any such insurer may print upon the policy such regulations as may be appropriate to or required by its form of organization.
(c) Binders or other contracts for temporary insurance may be made, orally or in writing, for a period which shall not exceed sixty days, and shall be deemed to include all the terms of such standard fire insurance policy and all such applicable endorsements, approved by the insurance commissioner, as may be designated in such contract of temporary insurance; except that the cancellation clause of such standard fire insurance policy, and the clause thereof specifying the hour of the day at which the insurance shall commence, may be superseded by the express terms of such contract of temporary insurance. Earned premiums for binders or other contracts for temporary insurance shall be computed and paid for at rates approved by the insurance commissioner.

(d) Two or more insurers authorized to do in this state the business of fire insurance, may, with the approval of the insurance commissioner, issue a combination standard form of fire insurance policy which shall contain the following provisions:

(1) A provision substantially to the effect that the insurers executing such policy shall be severally liable for
the full amount of any loss or damage, according to the
terms of the policy, or for specified percentages or amounts
thereof, aggregating the full amount of such insurance
under such policy;

(2) A provision substantially to the effect that service
of process, or of any notice or proof of loss required by
such policy, upon any of the insurers executing such
policy, shall be deemed to be service upon all such ins-
urers.

(e) Appropriate forms of supplemental contract or con-
tacts or extended coverage endorsements whereby the
interest in the property described in such policy shall be
insured against one or more of the perils which the in-
surer is empowered to assume, in addition to the perils
covered by said standard fire insurance policy, may be
approved by the insurance commissioner, and their use
in connection with a standard fire insurance policy may
be authorized by him. The first page of the policy may
in form approved by the insurance commissioner be re-
arranged to provide space for the listing of amounts of
insurance, rates and premiums for the basic coverages
insured under the standard form of policy and for additional coverages or perils insured under endorsements attached, and such other data as may be conveniently included for duplication on daily reports for office records.

(f) The form of the standard fire insurance policy of the state of West Virginia (with the right to number the lines, if desired, in the provisions and stipulations on page two of the form and to substitute for the word "company" a more accurate descriptive form for the type of insurer) shall be as follows:

No. (Space for insertion of name of company or companies issuing the policy and other matter permitted to be stated at the head of the policy.)

(Space for listing amounts of insurance, rates and premiums for the basic coverages insured under the standard form of policy and for additional coverages or perils insured under endorsements attached.)

In consideration of the provisions and stipulations here-in or added hereto and of Dollars Premium this company, for the term of (from
the________day of____________________, 19_____ to the________
day of____________________, 19_____ at noon, Standard
Time, at location of property involved, to an amount not
exceeding____________________________ Dollars, does
insure______________________________and legal
representatives, to the extent of the actual cash value of
the property at the time of loss, but not exceeding the
amount which it would cost to repair or replace the prop-
erty with material of like kind and quality within a rea-
sonable time after such loss, without allowance for any
increased cost of repair or reconstruction by reason of any
ordinance or law regulating construction or repair, and
without compensation for loss resulting from interruption
of business or manufacture, nor in any event for more
than the interest of the insured, against all DIRECT LOSS
BY FIRE, LIGHTNING AND BY REMOVAL FROM
PREMISES ENDANGERED BY THE PERILS INSURED
AGAINST IN THIS POLICY, EXCEPT AS HEREIN-
AFTER PROVIDED, to the property described herein-
after while located or contained as described in this policy,
or pro rata for five days at each proper place to which
any of the property shall necessarily be removed for preservation from elsewhere.

Assignment of this policy shall not be valid except with the written consent of this Company.

This policy is made and accepted subject to the foregoing provisions and stipulations and those hereinafter stated, which are hereby made a part of this policy, together with such other provisions, stipulations and agreements as may be added hereto, as provided in this policy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Company has executed and attested these presents; but this policy shall not be valid unless countersigned by the duly authorized Agent of this Company at

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

President.

Secretary.

Countersigned this day of , 19

__________________________________________________________________________

Agent.

Concealment, fraud. This entire policy shall be void if,
whether before or after a loss, the insured has wilfully concealed or misrepresented any material fact or circumstance concerning this insurance or the subject thereof, or the interest of the insured therein, or in case of any fraud or false swearing by the insured relating thereto.

**Uninsurable and excepted property.** This policy shall not cover accounts, bills, currency, deeds, evidences of debt, money or securities; nor, unless specifically named hereon in writing, bullion or manuscripts.

**Perils not included.** This Company shall not be liable for loss by fire or other perils insured against in this policy, caused, directly or indirectly, by: (a) enemy attack by armed forces, including action taken by military, naval or air forces in resisting an actual or an immediately impending enemy attack; (b) invasion; (c) insurrection; (d) rebellion; (e) revolution; (f) civil war; (g) usurped power; (h) order of any civil authority except acts of destruction at the time of and for the purpose of preventing the spread of fire, provided that such fire did not originate from any of the perils excluded by this policy; (i) neglect of the insured to use all reasonable means to
save and preserve the property at and after a loss, or when the property is endangered by fire in neighboring premises; (j) nor shall this Company be liable for loss by theft.

Other Insurance. Other insurance may be prohibited or the amount of insurance may be limited by endorsement attached hereto.

Conditions suspending or restricting insurance. Unless otherwise provided in writing added hereto this Company shall not be liable for loss occurring (a) while the hazard is increased by any means within the control or knowledge of the insured; or (b) while a described building, whether intended for occupancy by owner or tenant, is vacant or unoccupied beyond a period of sixty consecutive days; or (c) as a result of explosion or riot, unless fire ensue, and in that event for loss by fire only.

Other perils or subjects. Any other peril to be insured against or subject of insurance to be covered in this policy shall be by endorsement in writing hereon or added hereto.

Added provisions. The extent of the application of in-
surance under this policy and of the contribution to be
made by this Company in case of loss, and any other
provision or agreement not inconsistent with the provi-
sions of this policy, may be provided for in writing added
hereto, but no provision may be waived except such as by
the terms of this policy is subject to change.

Waiver provisions. No permission affecting this insur-
ance shall exist, or waiver of any provisions be valid,
unless granted herein or expressed in writing added here-
to. No provision, stipulation or forfeiture shall be held
to be waived by any requirement or proceeding on the
part of this Company relating to appraisal or to any ex-
amination provided for herein.

Cancellation of policy. This policy shall be cancelled
at any time at the request of the insured, in which case
this Company shall, upon demand and surrender of this
policy, refund the excess of paid premium above the cus-
tomary short rates for the expired time. This policy may
be cancelled at any time by this Company by giving to
the insured a five days' written notice of cancellation with
or without tender of the excess of paid premium above
the pro rata premium for the expired time, which excess, if not tendered, shall be refunded on demand. Notice of cancellation shall state that said excess premium (if not tendered) will be refunded on demand.

Mortgagee interests and obligations. If loss hereunder is made payable, in whole or in part, to a designated mortgagee not named herein as the insured, such interest in this policy may be cancelled by giving to such mortgagee a ten days' written notice of cancellation.

If the insured fails to render proof of loss such mortgagee, upon notice, shall render proof of loss in the form herein specified within sixty days thereafter and shall be subject to the provisions hereof relating to appraisal and time of payment and of bringing suit. If this Company shall claim that no liability existed as to the mortgagor or owner, it shall, to the extent of payment of loss to the mortgagee, be subrogated to all the mortgagee's rights of recovery, but without impairing mortgagee's right to sue; or it may pay off the mortgage debt and require an assignment thereof and of the mortgage. Other provisions relating to the interests and obligations of such
mortgagee may be added hereto by agreement in writing.

Pro rata liability. This Company shall not be liable for a greater proportion of any loss than the amount hereby insured shall bear to the whole insurance covering the property against the peril involved, whether collectible or not.

Requirements in case loss occurs. The insured shall give immediate written notice to this Company of any loss, protect the property from further damage, forthwith separate the damaged and undamaged personal property, put it in the best possible order, furnish a complete inventory of the destroyed, damaged and undamaged property, showing in detail quantities, costs, actual cash value and amount of loss claimed; and within sixty days after the loss, unless such time is extended in writing by this Company, the insured shall render to this Company a proof of loss, signed and sworn to by the insured, stating the knowledge and belief of the insured as to the following: the time and origin of the loss, the interest of the insured and of all others in the property, the actual cash value of each item thereof and the amount of loss thereto,
all encumbrances thereon, all other contracts of insurance, whether valid or not, covering any of said property, any changes in the title, use, occupation, location, possession or exposures of said property since the issuing of this policy, by whom and for what purpose any building herein described and the several parts thereof were occupied at the time of loss and whether or not it then stood on leased ground, and shall furnish a copy of all the descriptions and schedules in all policies and, if required, verified plans and specifications of any building, fixtures or machinery destroyed or damaged. The insured, as often as may be reasonably required, shall exhibit to any person designated by this Company all that remains of any property herein described, and submit to examinations under oath by any person named by this Company, and subscribe the same; and, as often as may be reasonably required, shall produce for examination all books of account, bills, invoices and other vouchers, or certified copies thereof if originals be lost, at such reasonable time and place as may be designated by this Company or its rep-
representative, and shall permit extracts and copies thereof to be made.

Appraisal. In case the insured and this Company shall fail to agree as to the actual cash value or the amount of loss, then, on the written demand of either, each shall select a competent and disinterested appraiser and notify the other of the appraiser selected within twenty days of such demand. The appraisers shall first select a competent and disinterested umpire; and failing for fifteen days to agree upon such umpire, then, on request of the insured or this Company, such umpire shall be selected by a judge of a court of record in the state in which the property covered is located. The appraisers shall then appraise the loss, stating separately actual cash value and loss to each item; and, failing to agree, shall submit their differences, only, to the umpire. An award in writing, so itemized, of any two when filed with this Company shall determine the amount of actual cash value and loss. Each appraiser shall be paid by the party selecting him and the expenses of appraisal and umpire shall be paid by the parties equally.
Company's options. It shall be optional with this Company to take all, or any part, of the property at the agreed or appraised value, and also to repair, rebuild or replace the property destroyed or damaged with other of like kind and quality within a reasonable time, on giving notice of its intention so to do within thirty days after the receipt of the proof of loss herein required.

Abandonment. There can be no abandonment to this Company of any property.

When loss payable. The amount of loss for which this Company may be liable shall be payable sixty days after proof of loss, as herein provided, is received by this Company and ascertainment of the loss is made either by agreement between the insured and this Company expressed in writing or by the filing with this Company of an award as herein provided.

Suit. No suit or action on this policy for the recovery of any claim shall be sustainable in any court of law or equity unless all the requirements of this policy shall have been complied with, and unless commenced within twelve months next after inception of the loss.
Subrogation. This Company may require from the insured an assignment of all right of recovery against any party for loss to the extent that payment therefor is made by this Company.

ATTACH FORM BELOW THIS LINE

Standard Fire Insurance Policy of the State of

Expires

Property

Assured

No.

(COMPANY)

It is important that the written portions of all policies covering the same property read exactly alike. If they do not, they should be made uniform at once.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House of Delegates

Takes effect from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within Approved this the 18th day of March, 1949.

Governor.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia.

D. Pitt O'Brien,
Secretary of State.