

HOUSE BILL No. 4426

February 24, 2009, Introduced by Reps. Gonzales, Spade, Polidori, Switalski, Gregory, Constan, Bauer, Durhal and Liss and referred to the Committee on Insurance.

A bill to amend 1956 PA 218, entitled
"The insurance code of 1956,"
by amending section 3104 (MCL 500.3104), as amended by 2002 PA 662.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 3104. (1) An unincorporated, nonprofit association to be
2 known as the catastrophic claims association, hereinafter referred
3 to as the association, is created. Each insurer engaged in writing
4 insurance coverages that provide the security required by section
5 3101(1) within this state, as a condition of its authority to
6 transact insurance in this state, shall be a member of the
7 association and ~~shall be~~ **IS** bound by the plan of operation of the
8 association. Each insurer engaged in writing insurance coverages
9 that provide the security required by section 3103(1) within this
10 state, as a condition of its authority to transact insurance in

1 this state, shall be considered a member of the association, but
2 only for purposes of premiums under subsection (7)(d). Except as
3 expressly provided in this section, the association is not subject
4 to any laws of this state with respect to insurers, but in all
5 other respects the association is subject to the laws of this state
6 to the extent that the association would be if it were an insurer
7 organized and subsisting under chapter 50.

8 (2) The association shall provide and each member shall accept
9 indemnification for 100% of the amount of ultimate loss sustained
10 under personal protection insurance coverages in excess of the
11 following amounts in each loss occurrence:

12 (a) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
13 before July 1, 2002, \$250,000.00.

14 (b) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
15 during the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, \$300,000.00.

16 (c) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
17 during the period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, \$325,000.00.

18 (d) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
19 during the period July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, \$350,000.00.

20 (e) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
21 during the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, \$375,000.00.

22 (f) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
23 during the period July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, \$400,000.00.

24 (g) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
25 during the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, \$420,000.00.

26 (h) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
27 during the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, \$440,000.00.

1 (i) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
2 during the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, \$460,000.00.

3 (j) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
4 during the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, \$480,000.00.

5 (k) For a motor vehicle accident policy issued or renewed
6 during the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013, \$500,000.00.
7 Beginning July 1, 2013, this \$500,000.00 amount shall be increased
8 biennially on July 1 of each odd-numbered year, for policies issued
9 or renewed before July 1 of the following odd-numbered year, by the
10 lesser of 6% or the consumer price index, and rounded to the
11 nearest \$5,000.00. This biennial adjustment shall be calculated by
12 the association by January 1 of the year of its July 1 effective
13 date.

14 (3) An insurer may withdraw from the association only upon
15 ceasing to write insurance that provides the security required by
16 section 3101(1) in this state.

17 (4) An insurer whose membership in the association has been
18 terminated by withdrawal shall continue to be bound by the plan of
19 operation, and upon withdrawal, all unpaid premiums that have been
20 charged to the withdrawing member are payable as of the effective
21 date of the withdrawal.

22 (5) An unsatisfied net liability to the association of an
23 insolvent member shall be assumed by and apportioned among the
24 remaining members of the association as provided in the plan of
25 operation. The association has all rights allowed by law on behalf
26 of the remaining members against the estate or funds of the
27 insolvent member for sums due the association.

1 (6) If a member has been merged or consolidated into another
2 insurer or another insurer has reinsured a member's entire business
3 that provides the security required by section 3101(1) in this
4 state, the member and successors in interest of the member remain
5 liable for the member's obligations.

6 (7) The association shall do all of the following on behalf of
7 the members of the association:

8 (a) Assume 100% of all liability as provided in subsection
9 (2).

10 (b) Establish procedures by which members shall promptly
11 report to the association each claim that, on the basis of the
12 injuries or damages sustained, may reasonably be anticipated to
13 involve the association if the member is ultimately held legally
14 liable for the injuries or damages. Solely for the purpose of
15 reporting claims, the member shall in all instances consider itself
16 legally liable for the injuries or damages. The member shall also
17 advise the association of subsequent developments likely to
18 materially affect the interest of the association in the claim.

19 (c) Maintain relevant loss and expense data relative to all
20 liabilities of the association and require each member to furnish
21 statistics, in connection with liabilities of the association, at
22 the times and in the form and detail as may be required by the plan
23 of operation.

24 (d) In a manner provided for in the plan of operation,
25 calculate and charge to members of the association a total premium
26 sufficient to cover the expected losses and expenses of the
27 association that the association will likely incur during the

1 period for which the premium is applicable. The premium shall
2 include an amount to cover incurred but not reported losses for the
3 period and may be adjusted for any excess or deficient premiums
4 from previous periods. Excesses or deficiencies from previous
5 periods may be fully adjusted in a single period or may be adjusted
6 over several periods in a manner provided for in the plan of
7 operation. Each member shall be charged an amount equal to that
8 member's total written car years of insurance providing the
9 security required by section 3101(1) or 3103(1), or both, written
10 in this state during the period to which the premium applies,
11 multiplied by the average premium per car. The average premium per
12 car shall be the total premium calculated divided by the total
13 written car years of insurance providing the security required by
14 section 3101(1) or 3103(1) written in this state of all members
15 during the period to which the premium applies. A member shall be
16 charged a premium for a historic vehicle that is insured with the
17 member of 20% of the premium charged for a car insured with the
18 member. As used in this subdivision:

19 (i) "Car" includes a motorcycle but does not include a historic
20 vehicle.

21 (ii) "Historic vehicle" means a vehicle that is a registered
22 historic vehicle under section 803a or 803p of the Michigan vehicle
23 code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.803a and 257.803p.

24 (e) Require and accept the payment of premiums from members of
25 the association as provided for in the plan of operation. The
26 association shall do either of the following:

27 (i) Require payment of the premium in full within 45 days after

1 the premium charge.

2 (ii) Require payment of the premiums to be made periodically to
3 cover the actual cash obligations of the association.

4 (f) Receive and distribute all sums required by the operation
5 of the association.

6 (g) Establish procedures for reviewing claims procedures and
7 practices of members of the association. If the claims procedures
8 or practices of a member are considered inadequate to properly
9 service the liabilities of the association, the association may
10 undertake or may contract with another person, including another
11 member, to adjust or assist in the adjustment of claims for the
12 member on claims that create a potential liability to the
13 association and may charge the cost of the adjustment to the
14 member.

15 (8) In addition to other powers granted to it by this section,
16 the association may do all of the following:

17 (a) Sue and be sued in the name of the association. A judgment
18 against the association shall not create any direct liability
19 against the individual members of the association. The association
20 may provide for the indemnification of its members, members of the
21 board of directors of the association, and officers, employees, and
22 other persons lawfully acting on behalf of the association.

23 (b) Reinsure all or any portion of its potential liability
24 with reinsurers licensed to transact insurance in this state or
25 approved by the commissioner.

26 (c) Provide for appropriate housing, equipment, and personnel
27 as may be necessary to assure the efficient operation of the

1 association.

2 (d) Pursuant to the plan of operation, adopt reasonable rules
3 for the administration of the association, enforce those rules, and
4 delegate authority, as the board considers necessary to assure the
5 proper administration and operation of the association consistent
6 with the plan of operation.

7 (e) Contract for goods and services, including independent
8 claims management, actuarial, investment, and legal services, from
9 others within or without this state to assure the efficient
10 operation of the association.

11 (f) Hear and determine complaints of a company or other
12 interested party concerning the operation of the association.

13 (g) Perform other acts not specifically enumerated in this
14 section that are necessary or proper to accomplish the purposes of
15 the association and that are not inconsistent with this section or
16 the plan of operation.

17 (9) A board of directors is created, hereinafter referred to
18 as the board, which ~~shall be~~ IS responsible for the operation of
19 the association consistent with the plan of operation and this
20 section.

21 (10) The plan of operation shall provide for all of the
22 following:

23 (a) The establishment of necessary facilities.

24 (b) The management and operation of the association.

25 (c) Procedures to be utilized in charging premiums, including
26 adjustments from excess or deficient premiums from prior periods.

27 (d) Procedures governing the actual payment of premiums to the

1 association.

2 (e) Reimbursement of each member of the board by the
3 association for actual and necessary expenses incurred on
4 association business.

5 (f) The investment policy of the association.

6 (g) Any other matters required by or necessary to effectively
7 implement this section.

8 (11) Each board shall include members that would contribute a
9 total of not less than 40% of the total premium calculated pursuant
10 to subsection (7)(d). Each director shall be entitled to 1 vote.
11 The initial term of office of a director shall be 2 years.

12 (12) As part of the plan of operation, the board shall adopt
13 rules providing for the composition and term of successor boards to
14 the initial board, consistent with the membership composition
15 requirements in subsections (11) and (13). Terms of the directors
16 shall be staggered so that the terms of all the directors do not
17 expire at the same time and so that a director does not serve a
18 term of more than 4 years.

19 (13) The board shall consist of 5 directors, and the
20 commissioner shall be an ex officio member of the board without
21 vote.

22 (14) Each director shall be appointed by the commissioner and
23 shall serve until that member's successor is selected and
24 qualified. The chairperson of the board shall be elected by the
25 board. A vacancy on the board shall be filled by the commissioner
26 consistent with the plan of operation.

27 (15) After the board is appointed, the board shall meet as

1 often as the chairperson, the commissioner, or the plan of
2 operation shall require, or at the request of any 3 members of the
3 board. The chairperson shall retain the right to vote on all
4 issues. Four members of the board constitute a quorum.

5 (16) An annual report of the operations of the association in
6 a form and detail as may be determined by the board shall be
7 furnished to each member.

8 (17) Not more than 60 days after the initial organizational
9 meeting of the board, the board shall submit to the commissioner
10 for approval a proposed plan of operation consistent with the
11 objectives and provisions of this section, which shall provide for
12 the economical, fair, and nondiscriminatory administration of the
13 association and for the prompt and efficient provision of
14 indemnity. If a plan is not submitted within this 60-day period,
15 then the commissioner, after consultation with the board, shall
16 formulate and place into effect a plan consistent with this
17 section.

18 (18) The plan of operation, unless approved sooner in writing,
19 shall be considered to meet the requirements of this section if it
20 is not disapproved by written order of the commissioner within 30
21 days after the date of its submission. Before disapproval of all or
22 any part of the proposed plan of operation, the commissioner shall
23 notify the board in what respect the plan of operation fails to
24 meet the requirements and objectives of this section. If the board
25 fails to submit a revised plan of operation that meets the
26 requirements and objectives of this section within the 30-day
27 period, the commissioner shall enter an order accordingly and shall

1 immediately formulate and place into effect a plan consistent with
2 the requirements and objectives of this section.

3 (19) The proposed plan of operation or amendments to the plan
4 of operation are subject to majority approval by the board,
5 ratified by a majority of the membership having a vote, with voting
6 rights being apportioned according to the premiums charged in
7 subsection (7) (d) and are subject to approval by the commissioner.

8 (20) Upon approval by the commissioner and ratification by the
9 members of the plan submitted, or upon the promulgation of a plan
10 by the commissioner, each insurer authorized to write insurance
11 providing the security required by section 3101(1) in this state,
12 as provided in this section, is bound by and shall formally
13 subscribe to and participate in the plan approved as a condition of
14 maintaining its authority to transact insurance in this state.

15 (21) The association is subject to all the reporting, loss
16 reserve, and investment requirements of the commissioner to the
17 same extent as would a member of the association.

18 (22) Premiums charged members by the association shall be
19 recognized in the rate-making procedures for insurance rates in the
20 same manner that expenses and premium taxes are recognized.

21 (23) The commissioner or an authorized representative of the
22 commissioner may visit the association at any time and examine any
23 and all the association's affairs.

24 (24) The association does not have liability for losses
25 occurring before July 1, 1978.

26 **(25) AN INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT APPOINTED BY**
27 **THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ANNUALLY CONDUCT AND DELIVER TO THE**

1 COMMISSIONER AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STANDING COMMITTEES ON INSURANCE ISSUES AN AUDIT OF THE
3 ASSOCIATION. IN CONDUCTING THE AUDIT, THE APPOINTED CERTIFIED
4 PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL RECORDS OF THE
5 ASSOCIATION. EACH AUDIT REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A
6 DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THE ASSOCIATION IS LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO
7 CONTINUE TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS.

8 (26) ~~(25)~~—As used in this section:

9 (a) "Consumer price index" means the percentage of change in
10 the consumer price index for all urban consumers in the United
11 States city average for all items for the 24 months prior to
12 October 1 of the year prior to the July 1 effective date of the
13 biennial adjustment under subsection (2) (k) as reported by the
14 United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, and
15 as certified by the commissioner.

16 (b) "Motor vehicle accident policy" means a policy providing
17 the coverages required under section 3101(1).

18 (c) "Ultimate loss" means the actual loss amounts that a
19 member is obligated to pay and that are paid or payable by the
20 member, and do not include claim expenses. An ultimate loss is
21 incurred by the association on the date that the loss occurs.