

2007 SENATE BILL 259

September 6, 2007 – Introduced by Senators LEHMAN, ERPENBACH, ROESSLER, PLALE, RISSER, COGGS and MILLER, cosponsored by Representatives BERCEAU, VRUWINK, BALLWEG, ALBERS, POCAN, GRIGSBY, HILGENBERG, FIELDS, HIXSON, A. WILLIAMS, SINICKI, SCHNEIDER, TOLES and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism and Insurance.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 625.12 (1) (e), 625.12 (2), 625.15 (1) and 628.34 (3) (a); and **to**
2 **create** 632.12 and 632.367 of the statutes; **relating to:** prohibiting the use of
3 information in credit reports for issuing or setting premiums for motor vehicle
4 or property insurance.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law contains prohibitions against unfairly discriminating among policyholders by charging different premiums or offering different terms of coverage except on the basis of classifications related to the nature and degree of risk covered. Current law also specifies the factors on which insurance rates may be based. These prohibitions and specifications apply to all types of insurance. Current law specifically prohibits an insurer from using odometer reading data collected in the course of an emissions inspection as a factor in setting rates or premiums for motor vehicle insurance.

This bill prohibits an insurer from considering information in an individual's credit report for purposes of issuing or renewing motor vehicle or property insurance, including renter's and homeowner's insurance, or setting premiums for motor vehicle or property insurance. The bill also prohibits a rating plan for motor vehicle

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or property insurance from using information in an individual's credit report as a rating factor.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 625.12 (1) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 625.12 (1) (e) Subject to ~~s. ss. 632.12, 632.365, and 632.367~~, all other relevant
3 factors, including the judgment of technical personnel.

4 **SECTION 2.** 625.12 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 625.12 (2) CLASSIFICATION. Risks may be classified in any reasonable way for
6 the establishment of rates and minimum premiums, except that no classifications
7 may be based on race, color, creed, or national origin, and classifications in
8 automobile insurance may not be based on physical condition or developmental
9 disability as defined in s. 51.01 (5). Subject to ~~s. ss. 632.12, 632.365, and 632.367~~,
10 rates thus produced may be modified for individual risks in accordance with rating
11 plans or schedules that establish reasonable standards for measuring probable
12 variations in hazards, expenses, or both. Rates may also be modified for individual
13 risks under s. 625.13 (2).

14 **SECTION 3.** 625.15 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 625.15 (1) RATE MAKING. An insurer may itself establish rates and
16 supplementary rate information for one or more market segments based on the
17 factors in s. 625.12 and, if the rates are for property insurance, subject to s. 632.12
18 or, if the rates are for motor vehicle liability insurance, subject to s. ss. 632.365 and
19 632.367, or the insurer may use rates and supplementary rate information prepared
20 by a rate service organization, with average expense factors determined by the rate

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1 service organization or with such modification for its own expense and loss
2 experience as the credibility of that experience allows.

3 **SECTION 4.** 628.34 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 628.34 (3) (a) No insurer may unfairly discriminate among policyholders by
5 charging different premiums or by offering different terms of coverage except on the
6 basis of classifications related to the nature and the degree of the risk covered or the
7 expenses involved, subject to ss. 632.12, 632.365, 632.367, 632.746, and 632.748.
8 Rates are not unfairly discriminatory if they are averaged broadly among persons
9 insured under a group, blanket, or franchise policy, and terms are not unfairly
10 discriminatory merely because they are more favorable than in a similar individual
11 policy.

12 **SECTION 5.** 632.12 of the statutes is created to read:

13 **632.12 Use of information in credit report. (1)** In this section, “property
14 insurance” includes renter’s insurance and homeowner’s insurance.

15 **(2)** A rating plan for property insurance may not use information in an
16 individual’s credit report as a rating factor.

17 **(3)** For the purpose of determining whether to issue or renew coverage under
18 a property insurance policy, or of setting premiums for coverage under such a policy,
19 an insurer may not consider information in the credit report of any of the following:

20 (a) An individual who is, or who if coverage is issued would be, a named insured
21 under the policy.

22 (b) The spouse or other family member of an individual under par. (a).

23 **SECTION 6.** 632.367 of the statutes is created to read:

