

AN ACT

To repeal section 375.918, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to insurance credit scoring.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section A. Section 375.918, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 375.917, to read as follows:

375.917. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no insurer shall use credit reports or credit scoring as a factor in underwriting an insurance contract issued or renewed on or after August 28, 2004.

2. A violation of this section may be enforceable under section 374.280, RSMo.

[375.918. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Adverse action", a denial, nonrenewal of, or a reduction in the amount of benefits payable or types of coverages under any contract, existing or applied for, in connection with the underwriting of insurance. An offer by an insurer to write a contract through an affiliated insurer does not constitute an adverse action;

(2) "Contract", any automobile insurance policy as defined in section 379.110, RSMo, or any property insurance policy as defined in section 375.001, including such a policy on a mobile home or residential condominium unit or a policy of renters' or tenants' insurance. Contract shall not include any policy of mortgage insurance or commercial insurance;

(3) "Credit report", any written or electronic communication of any information by a consumer reporting agency that:

(a) Bears on a person's credit worthiness, credit standing, or credit capacity; and

(b) Is used or collected wholly or partly to serve as a factor in the underwriting of a contract;

(4) "Credit scoring entity", any entity that is involved in creating, compiling, or providing insurance credit scores;

(5) "Insurance credit score", a numerical representation of the insurance risk a person presents using the person's attributes derived from a credit report or credit information in a formula to assess insurance risk on an actuarial or statistical basis;

(6) "Insurer", any insurance company or entity that offers a contract;

(7) "Underwriting", the selection of the risk that will be assumed by the insurer on a contract, and specifically the decision whether to accept, deny, renew, nonrenew, reduce, or increase the amount of benefits payable or types of coverages under the contract.

2. An insurer using a credit report or insurance credit score as a factor in underwriting shall not take an adverse action based on such factor without consideration of another noncredit-related underwriting factor.

3. No insurer shall take an adverse action against an applicant or insured based on inability to compute an insurance credit score without consideration of another underwriting factor, unless the insurer can justify the credibility that the lack of an insurance credit score has in underwriting to the director of insurance.

4. An insurer using a credit report or insurance credit score as a factor in underwriting a contract shall disclose at the time of the original application for the contract or on the application itself that the insurer may gather credit information.

5. An insurer using a credit report or insurance credit score as a factor in

underwriting of a contract shall not take an adverse action on such contract based on information that is the subject of a written dispute between the policyholder or applicant and a consumer reporting agency, as noted in such person's credit report, until such dispute has reached final determination in accordance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq. In the event that information is the subject of a written dispute under this subsection, the sixty-day period provided by section 375.002 or section 379.110, RSMo, shall be extended until fifteen days after the dispute reaches final determination. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any consumer reporting agency, as defined by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq., to include any information on a credit report beyond the extent required by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq.

6. If the use of a credit report or insurance credit score on a contract results in an adverse action, the insurer shall provide the policyholder or applicant:

(1) Notice that a credit report or insurance credit score adversely affected the underwriting of the contract;

(2) The name, address, and telephone number of the consumer credit reporting agency that furnished the credit information, in compliance with the notice requirements of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq.;

(3) Notice of the right to obtain a free credit report from the consumer credit reporting agency within sixty days; and

(4) Notice of the right to lodge a dispute with the consumer credit reporting agency to have any erroneous information corrected in accordance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq.

7. Within thirty days from the date the insurer provides notice of an adverse action pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 6 of this section, the applicant or insured may in writing request from the insurer a

statement of reasons for such action. For purposes of determining the thirty-day period, the notice of an adverse action is deemed received three days after mailing. The statement of reasons shall be sufficiently clear and specific so that a person of average intelligence can identify the basis for the insurer's decision without further inquiry. An insurer may provide an explanation of significant characteristics of the credit history that may have impacted such person's insurance credit score to meet the requirements of this subsection. Standardized credit explanations provided by credit scoring entities comply with this subsection.

8. If an insurer bases an adverse action in part on a credit report or insurance credit score, the applicant or insured may within thirty days of such adverse action make a written request for reunderwriting following any correction relating to the credit report or insurance credit score.

9. An insurer may obtain and use a current credit report or insurance credit score on new business or renewal contracts, but shall not take an adverse action with respect to renewal contracts based upon such credit report or insurance credit score until or after the third anniversary date of the initial contract.

10. Insurance inquiries shall not directly or indirectly be used as a negative factor in any insurance credit scoring formula or in the use of a credit report in underwriting.

11. Nothing in this section shall be construed as superceding the provisions of section 375.002 and section 379.114, RSMo. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting any insurer from using credit information in determining whether to offer a policyholder or applicant the option to finance or establish a payment plan for the payment of any premium for a contract. Nothing in this section shall apply to any entity not acting as an insurer or credit scoring entity as defined in subsection 1 of this section.

12. No credit scoring entity shall provide or sell to any party, other than the insurer, its insurance company affiliates or holding companies, and the producer from whom the inquiry was generated, data or lists that include any information that in whole or in part is submitted in conjunction with credit inquiries about consumers. Such information includes, but is not limited to, expiration dates, information that may identify time periods during which a consumer's insurance may expire, or other nonpublic personal information as defined under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. Sections 6801 to 6809. The provisions of this subsection shall not preclude the exchange of information specifically authorized under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1681, et seq., the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. Sections 6801 to 6809 and other applicable federal law. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to data disclosed in connection with a proposed or actual sale, merger, transfer or exchange of all or a portion of an insurer's or producer's business or operating unit, including but not limited to, the sale of a portfolio of contracts, if such disclosure concerns solely consumers of the business or unit and such disclosure is not the primary reason for the sale, merger, transfer or exchange.

13. A violation of this section may be enforceable under section 374.280, RSMo.

14. The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2003.]