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COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To: Members of the Council

From: Phyllis Jones, Secretary to the Council

Date: June 26, 1996

Subject: Correspondence from the Mayor - Return of Unsigned Bill 11-157, "Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996".

The attached correspondence regarding Bill 11-157, "Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996" which was returned unsigned is circulated for your review and information. Copies may be obtained from the Legislative Services Division, Room 28.

cc: Legislative Services Division General Counsel RECEIVED

·96 JIN 26 P12:53

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

MARION BARRY, JR.

June 26, 1996

The Honorable David A. Clarke Chairman Council of the District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Clarke:

Today I am returning unsigned the "Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996". The enactment of this legislation comes with a price tag to District residents. District residents will pay more for automobile insurance without receiving additional benefits. Moreover, District residents will pay an even greater price for the change in regulatory controls. Bill 11-157, "Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996" changes the manner in which auto insurance is regulated in the District and limits the amount of time the Superintendent of Insurance has when examining insurance policies. I am very concerned that Bill 11-157 will increase rates which will cause buyers to react unfavorably. For the foregoing reasons, I cannot sign Bill 11-157, "Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996".

I do not believe Bill 11-157 is the best approach for this market. There are other alternatives which can be explored that have worked well in other jurisdictions. Bill 11-157 falls short of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) model and the competitive rating structure adopted in the state of Maryland. I believe District residents and automobile insurers deserve the best possible regulatory structure to ensure competitive rates and Bill 11-157 is clearly not the best alternative for the District.

Sincerely, mBarity, Jr.

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AN ACT

Codification District of Columbia Code 1997 Supp.

Note, Section 35-2105

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the Compulsory/No Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance Act of 1982 to require that disputes between insurers over property damage claims under automobile insurance policies be submitted to binding arbitration in accordance with the Nationwide Intercompany Arbitration Agreement; to provide that insurers need not quote rates from, or seek the permission of, the Automobile Insurance Plan when offering automobile insurance to customers in the voluntary market; to clarify what information insurers must give policyholders at renewal time; to eliminate duplicate notice provisions of cancellation or nonrenewal of policies; to increase the time for insurers to investigate the insurability of applicants for automobile insurance from 30 days to 60 days; and to allow insurers to charge higher rates to certain applicants for automobile insurance who have not previously been insured to reflect the higher risk that such persons pose; to amend the District of Columbia Fire, Casualty and Marine Insurance Act of 1940 to deem approved insurance policy forms that have not been disapproved by the Superintendent of Insurance within 60 days of receipt; to amend the District of Columbia Regulation of Casualty and Other Insurance Rates Act of 1948 to require that rates be filed with the Superintendent of Insurance and that they be adequate, not excessive, and not unfairly discriminatory; and to require that the Superintendent report to the Council within two years on the impact of this act on the insurance market in the District of Columbia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as "Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996".

Sec. 2. The Compulsory/No-Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance Act of 1982, effective September 18, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-155; D.C. Code § 35-2101 et seq.), is amended as follows: (a) Section 6 (D.C. Code §35-2105) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (h) is amended to read as follows:

"(h) Except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, any person having a claim under

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the mandatory insurance required in section 7 or the optional insurance offered pursuant to section 5 may request that the claim be resolved by arbitration before the Board of Consumer Claims Arbitration for the District of Columbia, established by section 4 of the Automobile Consumer Protection Act of 1984, effective March 14, 1985 (D.C. Law 5-162; D.C. Code § 40-1303). If the other party or parties to the action consent, the Board may hear and decide the matter. Arbitration of these claims shall be binding.".

(2) A new subsection (i) is added to read as follows:

"(i) Insurers shall arbitrate and settle all disputed claims made for automobile physical damage between them in accordance with the terms of the Nationwide Intercompany Arbitration Agreement ("Agreement") as adopted and from time to time amended by its members, and the rules promulgated pursuant to the Agreement, unless the parties mutually agree, on a per case basis, to use another arbitration forum, in which case the claim shall be arbitrated in that alternate forum. Mandatory arbitration of disputed claims shall be limited solely to the issues of liability and damages. Every automobile liability or physical damage insurer doing business in the District of Columbia shall be a member of the Nationwide Intercompany Arbitration Agreement sponsored by the Committee on Insurance Arbitration.".

(b) Section 7 (D.C. Code § 35-2106) is amended as follows:

Note, Section 35-2106

(1) Subsection (a)(1)(B) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) When a plan has been approved by the Superintendent, all insurers authorized to sell motor vehicle insurance in the District shall subscribe thereto, cooperate therewith, and participate therein; provided, however, that no insurer shall be required to quote plan rates to applicants for voluntary insurance or to seek waivers from the plan before selling such voluntary insurance.".

(2) Subsection (a)(2) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) Each insurer selling motor vehicle insurance in the District shall make the insurance policy understandable to policyholders. Each insurance company shall provide to policy holders at least annually the following information:

"(A) A listing of each type of coverage available; and

"(B) An explanation of the mandatory insurance and required options created under this act;".

(c) Section 10 (D.C. Code § 35-2109) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended in the lead-in language to read as follows:

"(b) Notice required of cancellation of or refusal to renew policy. -- No cancellation or refusal to renew by an insurer of a policy of motor vehicle insurance shall be effective unless the insurer has delivered or mailed to the named insured, at his or her last known address, a written notice of intent to cancel or refusal to renew. The required notice shall be provided to the named insured at least 30 days prior to the effective date of cancellation, or in the case of nonrenewal, 30 days prior to the end of the policy period. The notice shall contain the following:".

(2) Subsection (h) is amended to read as follows:

"(h) Policies in effect less than 60 days. -- The restrictions on cancellation contained in

Note, Section 35-2109

this section shall not be effective with respect to any policy which shall have been in force for 60 days or less if the policy is not a renewal policy.".

(3) Subsection (n) is amended to read as follows:

"(n) Nondiscrimination against persons not previously insured -- No insurer shall refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure, limit coverage available to, or charge a disadvantageous rate to any person seeking to obtain insurance required by this act because that person had not been previously insured. This provision shall not apply if the applicant was required by law to maintain automobile insurance coverage and failed to do so. An insurer may require reasonable proof that the applicant did not fail to maintain this coverage. The insurer is not required to accept the mere lack of a conviction or citation for failure to maintain this coverage as proof of maintenance of coverage.".

Sec. 3. Section 27 of the District of Columbia Fire, Casualty and Marine Insurance Act of 1940, effective October 9, 1940 (54 Stat.1076; D.C. Code §35-1531), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 27. The Superintendent may require that all policy forms used by every company covering risks in the District be filed with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall have authority to disapprove, within 60 days after the date of the receipt of a filing, the use in the District of any policy form which is inequitable, or does not comply with the requirement of the law of the District. If a policy form is not disapproved for use within the 60-day period described above, the Superintendent may not disapprove it for use unless it does not comply with the requirements of the law of the District."

Sec. 4. Section 3 of the District of Columbia Regulation of Casualty and Other Insurance Rates Act of 1948, effective May 20, 1948 (62 Stat. 243; D.C. Code § 35-1703), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (b) is amended by adding the following sentence at the end to read as follows:

"Unrealized capital gains or losses shall not be considered in the rate-making process.". (b) Subsection (f)(2) is amonded to read as follower:

(b) Subsection (f)(2) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) Every final rate or premium charge proposed to be used by any motor vehicle insurer shall be filed with the Superintendent and shall be adequate, not excessive, and not unfairly discriminatory. A motor vehicle insurance rate may be held by the Superintendent to be excessive if the rate is unreasonably high for the insurance provided and is not actuarially justified based on the commonly accepted actuarial principles. In determining whether rates comply with standards under this subsection, due consideration shall be given for past and prospective loss experience within and outside the District, a reasonable margin for underwriting profit and contingencies, dividends, savings, or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders or members or subscribers, past and prospective expenses, both countrywide and in the District, and investment income earned or realized by

Note, Section 35-1531

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insurers both from their unearned premiums and from their loss reserve funds. If the Superintendent finds after a hearing that a rate is not in compliance with this subsection, he shall order that its use be discontinued for any policy issued or renewed after a date specified in the order and the order may prospectively provide for premium adjustment of any policy then in force.".

(c) Subsection (h) is amended to read as follows:

"(h) Every insurer writing motor vehicle insurance in the District shall file with the Superintendent, in such form as he shall order, complete financial records showing the amount of profit on every line of motor vehicle insurance during the previous year."

Sec. 5. Reporting requirement.

Within two years of the effective date of this act, the Superintendent of Insurance shall prepare and submit to the Council of the District of Columbia for its review a report on the impact of this act on the private passenger motor vehicle insurance market or any part thereof, the funding for the Office of Insurance, the District of Columbia insurance premium tax, the number of insurers doing business in the District, and the number of insurers domiciled in the District of Columbia. In preparing such report, the Superintendent may request from specific private passenger motor vehicle insurers doing business in the District, or from all such insurers, reasonable and pertinent information. Information which is proprietary to any affected insurer shall be treated as confidential by the Superintendent, but may be used in the aggregate with other with information from other affected insurers for statistical or other reporting purposes.

Sec. 6. Fiscal impact.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Colombia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code §1-233(c)(3)).

Sec. 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), approval by the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority as provided in section 203(a) of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority Act of 1995, approved April 17, 1995 (109 Stat. 116; D.C. Code § 47-392.3(a)), and a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental

Note, Sections 35-1531, 35-1703, 35-2105, 35-2106, 35-2109

Reorganization Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code § 1-233(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

an Pro Tempore Jouncil of the District of Columbia

DEEMED APPROVED WITHOUT SIGNATURE UPON EXPIRATION OF THE 10-DAY MAYORAL REVIEW PERIOD.

NOT SIGNED

Mayor District of Columbia June 26, 1996

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Secretary to the Council

Date

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NOTICE

D.C. LAW 11-160

"Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996".

Pursuant to Section 412 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, P.L. 93-198 "the Act", the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill 11-157 on first and second readings, May 7, 1996 and June 4, 1996 respectively. This legislation was deemed approved without the signature of the Mayor on June 26, 1996, pursuant to Section 404(e) of "the Act", and was assigned Act 11-296 and published in the July 19, 1996, edition of the D.C. Register (Vol. 43 page 3722) and transmitted to Congress on July 10, 1996 for a 30-day review, in accordance with Section 602(c)(1) of the Act.

The Council of the District of Columbia hereby gives notice that the 30-day Congressional Review Period has expired, and therefore, cites this enactment as D.C. Law 11-160, effective September 20, 1996.

Chairman of the Council

Dates Counted During the 30-day Congressional Review Period:July10,11,12,16,17,18,19,22,23,24,25,26,29,30,31

Aug. 1,2

Sept. 3,4,5,6,9,10,11,12,13,16,17,18,19

AN ACT

D.C. <u>ACT 11</u>-296

Codification District of Columbia Code 1997 Supp.

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

<u>JUNE 26, 1996</u>

To amend the Compulsory/No Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance Act of 1982 to require that disputes between insurers over property damage claims under automobile insurance policies be submitted to binding arbitration in accordance with the Nationwide Intercompany Arbitration Agreement; to provide that insurers need not quote rates from, or seek the permission of, the Automobile Insurance Plan when offering automobile insurance to customers in the voluntary market; to clarify what information insurers must give policyholders at renewal time; to eliminate duplicate notice provisions of cancellation or nonrenewal of policies: to increase the time for insurers to investigate the insurability of applicants for automobile insurance from 30 days to 60 days; and to allow insurers to charge higher rates to certain applicants for automobile insurance who have not previously been insured to reflect the higher risk that such persons pose; to amend the District of Columbia Fire, Casualty and Marine Insurance Act of 1940 to deem approved insurance policy forms that have not been disapproved by the Superintendent of Insurance within 60 days of receipt; to amend the District of Columbia Regulation of Casualty and Other Insurance Rates Act of 1948 to require that rates be filed with the Superintendent of Insurance and that they be adequate, not excessive, and not unfairly discriminatory; and to require that the Superintendent report to the Council within two years on the impact of this act on the insurance market in the District of Columbia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as "Automobile Insurance Amendment Act of 1996".

Sec. 2. The Compulsory/No-Fault Motor Vehicle Insurance Act of 1982, effective September 18, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-155; D.C. Code § 35-2101 et seq.), is amended as follows: (a) Section 6 (D.C. Code §35-2105) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (h) is amended to read as follows:

Note, Section 35-2105

"(h) Except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, any person having a claim under

the mandatory insurance required in section 7 or the optional insurance offered pursuant to section 5 may request that the claim be resolved by arbitration before the Board of Consumer Claims Arbitration for the District of Columbia, established by section 4 of the Automobile Consumer Protection Act of 1984, effective March 14, 1985 (D.C. Law 5-162; D.C. Code § 40-1303). If the other party or parties to the action consent, the Board may hear and decide the matter. Arbitration of these claims shall be binding.".

(2) A new subsection (i) is added to read as follows:

"(i) Insurers shall arbitrate and settle all disputed claims made for automobile physical damage between them in accordance with the terms of the Nationwide Intercompany Arbitration Agreement ("Agreement") as adopted and from time to time amended by its members, and the rules promulgated pursuant to the Agreement, unless the parties mutually agree, on a per case basis, to use another arbitration forum, in which case the claim shall be arbitrated in that alternate forum. Mandatory arbitration of disputed claims shall be limited solely to the issues of liability and damages. Every automobile liability or physical damage insurer doing business in the District of Columbia shall be a member of the Nationwide Intercompany Arbitration Agreement sponsored by the Committee on Insurance Arbitration.".

(b) Section 7 (D.C. Code § 35-2106) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a)(1)(B) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) When a plan has been approved by the Superintendent, all insurers authorized to sell motor vehicle insurance in the District shall subscribe thereto, cooperate therewith, and participate therein; provided, however, that no insurer shall be required to quote plan rates to applicants for voluntary insurance or to seek waivers from the plan before selling such voluntary insurance.".

(2) Subsection (a)(2) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) Each insurer selling motor vehicle insurance in the District shall make the insurance policy understandable to policyholders. Each insurance company shall provide to policy holders at least annually the following information:

"(A) A listing of each type of coverage available; and

"(B) An explanation of the mandatory insurance and required options created under this act;".

(c) Section 10 (D.C. Code § 35-2109) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended in the lead-in language to read as follows:

"(b) Notice required of cancellation of or refusal to renew policy. -- No cancellation or refusal to renew by an insurer of a policy of motor vehicle insurance shall be effective unless the insurer has delivered or mailed to the named insured, at his or her last known address, a written notice of intent to cancel or refusal to renew. The required notice shall be provided to the named insured at least 30 days prior to the effective date of cancellation, or in the case of nonrenewal, 30 days prior to the end of the policy period. The notice shall contain the following:".

(2) Subsection (h) is amended to read as follows:

"(h) Policies in effect less than 60 days. -- The restrictions on cancellation contained in

Note, Section 35-2106

Note, Section 35-2109

this section shall not be effective with respect to any policy which shall have been in force for 60 days or less if the policy is not a renewal policy.".

(3) Subsection (n) is amended to read as follows:

"(n) Nondiscrimination against persons not previously insured -- No insurer shall refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure, limit coverage available to, or charge a disadvantageous rate to any person seeking to obtain insurance required by this act because that person had not been previously insured. This provision shall not apply if the applicant was required by law to maintain automobile insurance coverage and failed to do so. An insurer may require reasonable proof that the applicant did not fail to maintain this coverage. The insurer is not required to accept the mere lack of a conviction or citation for failure to maintain this coverage as proof of maintenance of coverage.".

Sec. 3. Section 27 of the District of Columbia Fire, Casualty and Marine Insurance Act of 1940, effective October 9, 1940 (54 Stat.1076; D.C. Code §35-1531), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 27. The Superintendent may require that all policy forms used by every company covering risks in the District be filed with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall have authority to disapprove, within 60 days after the date of the receipt of a filing, the use in the District of any policy form which is inequitable, or does not comply with the requirement of the law of the District. If a policy form is not disapprove if for use within the 60-day period described above, the Superintendent may not disapprove it for use unless it does not comply with the requirements of the law of the District.".

Sec. 4. Section 3 of the District of Columbia Regulation of Casualty and Other Insurance Note, Section Rates Act of 1948, effective May 20, 1948 (62 Stat. 243; D.C. Code § 35-1703), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (b) is amended by adding the following sentence at the end to read as follows:

"Unrealized capital gains or losses shall not be considered in the rate-making process.".

(b) Subsection (f)(2) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) Every final rate or premium charge proposed to be used by any motor vehicle insurer shall be filed with the Superintendent and shall be adequate, not excessive, and not unfairly discriminatory. A motor vehicle insurance rate may be held by the Superintendent to be excessive if the rate is unreasonably high for the insurance provided and is not actuarially justified based on the commonly accepted actuarial principles. In determining whether rates comply with standards under this subsection, due consideration shall be given for past and prospective loss experience within and outside the District, a reasonable margin for underwriting profit and contingencies, dividends, savings, or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders or members or subscribers, past and prospective expenses, both countrywide and in the District, and investment income earned or realized by

insurers both from their unearned premiums and from their loss reserve funds. If the Superintendent finds after a hearing that a rate is not in compliance with this subsection, he shall order that its use be discontinued for any policy issued or renewed after a date specified in the order and the order may prospectively provide for premium adjustment of any policy then in force.".

(c) Subsection (h) is amended to read as follows:

"(h) Every insurer writing motor vehicle insurance in the District shall file with the Superintendent, in such form as he shall order, complete financial records showing the amount of profit on every line of motor vehicle insurance during the previous year."

Sec. 5. Reporting requirement.

Within two years of the effective date of this act, the Superintendent of Insurance shall prepare and submit to the Council of the District of Columbia for its review a report on the impact of this act on the private passenger motor vehicle insurance market or any part thereof, the funding for the Office of Insurance, the District of Columbia insurance premium tax, the number of insurers doing business in the District, and the number of insurers domiciled in the District of Columbia. In preparing such report, the Superintendent may request from specific private passenger motor vehicle insurers doing business in the District, or from all such insurers, reasonable and pertinent information. Information which is proprietary to any affected insurer shall be treated as confidential by the Superintendent, but may be used in the aggregate with other with information from other affected insurers for statistical or other reporting purposes.

Sec. 6. Fiscal impact.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Colombia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code §1-233(c)(3)).

Sec. 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), approval by the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority as provided in section 203(a) of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority Act of 1995, approved April 17, 1995 (109 Stat. 116; D.C. Code § 47-392.3(a)), and a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental

Note, Sections 35-1531, 35-1703, 35-2105, 35-2106, 35-2109

Reorganization Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code § 1-233(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

an Pro Tempore ouncil of the District of Columbia

DEEMED APPROVED WITHOUT SIGNATURE UPON EXPIRATION OF THE 10-DAY MAYORAL REVIEW PERIOD.

NOT SIGNED

Mayor District of Columbia June 26, 1996

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