

2021 -- H 5275

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE CONSUMER PROTECTION SALES ACT

Introduced By: Representative John G. Edwards

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 27 of the General Laws entitled "INSURANCE" is hereby amended by
2 adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 82

4 INSURANCE CONSUMER PROTECTION SALES ACT

5 **27-82-1. Short title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Insurance Consumer Protection Sales
7 Act."

8 **27-82-2. Purpose.**

9 The purpose of this chapter is to regulate noninsurance business entities in the disclosure
10 of personal identifiable information for insurance sales.

11 **27-82-3. Definitions.**

12 For the purposes of this chapter:

13 (1) "Business entity" means an individual, firm, corporation, business trust, association,
14 partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or any legal entity, its affiliates
15 or subsidiaries and any of its officers, agents, representatives or employees; provided, however,
16 "business entity" shall not include financial institutions as defined and subject to the provisions of
17 chapter 58 of title 27.

18 (2) "Commissioner" means the director of the department of business regulation or
19 designee.

1 (3) "Insurance" includes all products defined or regulated as insurance by the department
2 of business regulation, except those products offered as follows:

3 (i) Portable electronics insurance as defined in §27-2.7-1;

4 (ii) Credit life, credit accident and health, credit involuntary unemployment insurance;

5 (iii) Group credit insurance, forced, placed or voluntary credit personal property insurance;

6 (iv) Group mortgage cancellation life insurance, or group mortgage accident and health
7 insurance and annuities;

8 (v) Insurance placed by a financial institution in connection with collateral pledged as
9 security for a loan when the debtor breaches the contractual obligation to provide that insurance;

10 and

11 (vi) Private mortgage insurance.

12 **27-82-4. Authorization for implementing regulations.**

13 The commissioner may promulgate administrative regulations to effectuate the purposes
14 of this chapter.

15 **27-82-5. Anti-tying provisions.**

16 (a) No person or business entity may offer any tangible personal property for sale or lease,
17 or fix or vary the conditions of an offer, on a condition or requirement that the customer obtains
18 insurance from the business entity, or any particular insurance producer or insurer.

19 (b) No business entity shall require or imply that the purchase of an insurance product
20 from a business entity or any particular insurance producer or insurer, by a customer or prospective
21 customer is required as a condition of, or is in any way related to the purchase or lease of any
22 tangible personal property, the lending of money or extension of credit or the provision of services
23 related to any of these activities.

24 (c) No business entity shall impose any requirement on any insurance producer or insurer
25 who is not associated with the business entity that is not imposed on any insurance producer or
26 insurer who is associated with that business entity.

27 **27-82-6. Sales force.**

28 Solicitation for the purchase or sale of insurance by a business entity shall be conducted
29 only by persons licensed in accordance with chapter 2.4 of title 27 whose responsibilities do not
30 include the sale of a noninsurance related tangible personal property, including, but not limited to,
31 salespersons, persons whose responsibilities include a determination of credit qualification,
32 financing, or persons assisting those individuals in the sale or lease of any tangible personal
33 property.

34 **27-82-7. Confidential customer information.**

1 (a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

2 (1) "Customer" means a person seeking to purchase or lease tangible personal property.

3 (2) "Nonpublic customer information" means personally identifiable financial information
4 regarding a person that has been derived from the sale or lease of tangible personal property by a
5 business entity, including, information on the product to be purchased or leased, information
6 concerning the terms and conditions of insurance coverage, insurance expirations, insurance
7 claims, or insurance history of an individual. Nonpublic customer information does not include
8 customer names, addresses, or telephone numbers.

9 (b) No business entity shall use any nonpublic customer information derived from the sale
10 or lease of tangible personal property for the purpose of selling or soliciting the purchase of
11 insurance, or provide the nonpublic customer information to a third party for the purpose of
12 another's sale or solicitation of the purchase of insurance.

13 **27-82-8. Insurance in connection with the sale or lease of tangible personal property.**

14 The transaction of a sale or lease of any tangible personal property and insurance
15 transactions shall be completed independently and through separate documents.

16 **27-82-9. Physical location of insurance activities.**

17 The place of solicitation or sale of insurance by any insurance company or any insurance
18 producer affiliated with a business entity, shall be from an office physically separated from the
19 activities associated with the sale or lease of any tangible personal property. Physical separation
20 shall not be defined as to require a separate building. The commissioner shall have the authority to
21 promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section pursuant to §27-82-4.

22 **27-82-10. Penalties.**

23 Any business entity or person who violates the provisions of this chapter, who fails to
24 perform any duties imposed by this chapter, or who violates any administrative regulation
25 promulgated pursuant to this chapter, shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed the sum of one
26 hundred dollars (\$100) for each day which the violation continues, and may be concurrently
27 enjoined from any further violations by the superior court upon petition of the insurance
28 commissioner.

29 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2022.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO INSURANCE -- INSURANCE CONSUMER PROTECTION SALES ACT

1 This act would create the "Insurance Consumer Protection Sales Act" which would prohibit
2 any person or business entity from offering for sale or lease any tangible personal property on the
3 condition or requirement that a prospective purchaser or lessee obtain insurance from any particular
4 insurance producer or insurer, or releasing a prospective purchaser or lesser's personal identifiable
5 in connection therewith.

6 This act would take effect on January 1, 2022.

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