

ACT 56

S.B. NO. 2137-82

A Bill for an Act Relating to Motor Vehicle Insurance.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 294-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) The plan shall provide all no-fault benefits and services, and tort liability coverage, to the limits and coverages specified in part I for all classes of persons, motor vehicles, and motor vehicle uses specified in this section upon the payment of premiums as provided in section 294-24, as follows:

- (1) The plan shall provide no-fault benefits and policies for each of the following classes, and each class shall be able to secure a no-fault and tort liability policy through the plan:
 - (A) All motor vehicles owned by licensed assigned risk drivers as the commissioner [shall, by regulation,], by rules, shall define. The commissioner shall regulate the class in accordance with the general practice of the industry, the applicable results, if any, of his examination of the motor vehicle insurers' business records and experience, and any applicable and scientifically credible governmental or academic studies of the multi-accident or high-risk automobile driver.
 - (B) All motor vehicles owned by licensed drivers convicted within the thirty-six months immediately preceding the date of application, in any jurisdiction of any one or more of the offenses of, or of the offenses cognate to:
 - (i) Heedless and careless driving,
 - (ii) Driving while license suspended or revoked,
 - (iii) Leaving the scene of an accident,
 - (iv) Manslaughter, if resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle,
 - (v) Driving under the influence of an intoxicating liquor as provided in section 291-4 or any drug, except marijuana, as provided in section 291-7.
 - (C) All commercial uses, first class, defined as any commercial use engaged in the transport of passengers for hire or gratuitously.
 - (D) All commercial uses, second class, defined as any commercial, business, or institutional use other than the transport of passengers as described in subparagraph (C) or the exclusive use of a vehicle for domestic-household-familial purposes.
 - (E) All motorcycles, motor scooters, and vehicles with less than four wheels required to be registered under chapter 286.
- (2) The plan shall provide no-fault benefits and policies for all classes of persons, motor vehicles, and motor vehicle uses, at the premiums specified under section 294-24, at the options of the owners, for the following classes, which the commissioner [shall, by regulation,], by rules, shall further define and regulate:
 - (A) All licensed drivers receiving public assistance benefits consisting of medical services or direct cash payments through the department of social services and housing, or benefits from the [Supplemental Security Income Program] supplemental security income program under the Social Security Administration; provided [such] the licensed drivers are the sole registered owners of the motor vehicles to be insured; provided further that not more than one vehicle per public assistance unit shall be insured under this chapter unless extra vehicles are approved by the department of social services and housing as being necessary for medical or employment purposes.

(B) Any licensed physically handicapped driver, including drivers with any auditory limitation.

Each category of driver-owner under subparagraph (A) or (B) may secure no-fault coverage through the plan at the individual's option, provided any previous no-fault policy has expired or has been canceled. Any person becoming eligible for plan coverage under subparagraph (A) shall first exhaust all paid coverage under any no-fault policy then in force before becoming eligible for plan coverage.

Any person eligible or becoming eligible, under [regulations to be] rules adopted by the commissioner, under subparagraph (B), may at any time elect coverage under the plan and terminate any prior private insurer's coverage.

A certificate shall be issued by the department of social services and housing indicating that the person is a bona fide public assistance recipient as defined in subparagraph (A). The certificate shall be deemed a policy for the purposes of chapter 431 upon the issuance of a valid no-fault insurance identification card pursuant to section 294-8.5.

- (3) Under the joint underwriting plan, all basic no-fault coverages, including the basic no-fault policy, the mandatory \$25,000 public liability and the \$10,000 property damage policies shall be offered by every insurer to each eligible applicant assigned by the bureau. In addition, optional additional coverage shall be offered by every insurer in conformance with section 294-11, for each class except that defined in paragraph (2)(A), as the commissioner [shall, by regulation,], by rules, shall provide."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 1, 1982.)