HOUSE BILL NO. 254

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, B. BROWN

BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIABILITY ISSUES

IN THE HOUSE

JANUARY 16, 1987	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & LABOR.
JANUARY 27, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL DO PASS AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
JANUARY 28, 1987	PRINTING REPORT.
JANUARY 29, 1987	SECOND READING, DO PASS AS AMENDED.
JANUARY 30, 1987	ENGROSSING REPORT.
JANUARY 31, 1987	THIRD READING, PASSED.
	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE.
	IN THE SENATE
FEBRUARY 2, 1987	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE
	ON BUSINESS & INDUSTRY.
FEBRUARY 18, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
FEBRUARY 18, 1987 MARCH 2, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT
,	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 2, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED. SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN. THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN.
MARCH 2, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED. SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN. THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN. AYES, 50; NOES, 0.

SECOND READING, AMENDMENTS

CONCURRED IN.

MARCH 9, 1987

THIRD READING, AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

Montana Legislative Council

1	1House BILL NO. 254
2	INTRODUCED BY THINKS BOS Brown
3	BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE
4	ON LIABILITY ISSUES
5	
6	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REGULATING THE GROUNDS
7	ON WHICH PROPERTY OR CASUALTY INSURANCE MAY BE CANCELED OR
8	NOT RENEWED; AND REQUIRING NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OR
9	NONRENEWAL OF A PROPERTY OR CASUALTY POLICY."
10	
11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
12	Section 1. Purpose applicability. (1) The purpose
13	of [sections 1 through 9] is to protect the public with
14	regard to insurance transactions that involve cancellation,
15	renewal, nonrenewal, or premium increases on contracts of
16	property or casualty insurance by:
17	(a) regulating the grounds for midterm cancellation of
18	an insurance policy;
19	(b) prohibiting midterm increases in premiums;
20	(c) increasing the opportunity for insureds to shop
21	for replacement or substitute insurance;
22	(d) reducing the opportunity for breach of contract,
23	misrepresentation by omission or untimely disclosure, and
24	unfair discrimination among insureds; and
25	(e) increasing the opportunity for agents to compete

2	(2) [Sections 1 through 9] apply to those forms of
3	insurance defined in 33-1-206 and 33-1-210, except to the
4	extent they conflict with 33-23-211 through 33-23-214
5	33-23-301, 33-23-302, and 33-23-401.
6	(3) [Sections 1 through 9] do not limit the activities
7	that may constitute undefined unfair trade practice
8	prohibited by 33-18-1003. The commissioner may apply othe
9	provisions of this code to insurance transactions involving
.0	cancellation, renewal, nonrenewal, or premium increases o
.1	contracts of property or casualty insurance. Policies mag
12	provide terms more favorable to insureds than are required
. 3	by [sections 1 through 9]. The rights provided by {sections
. 4	1 through 9] are in addition to and do not prejudice an
. 5	other rights that the insured may have under common law
6	statutes, or rules.
.7	Section 2. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through
.8	9], the following definitions apply unless the contex
. 9	requires otherwise:
0	(1) "Anniversary date" means the month and day tha
21	rates, rating plans, and rating systems are initially
22	applied to a policy in effect. The term includes each annual
23	anniversary thereafter unless the insurer establishes
4	different date by a filing with the commissioner.

(2) "Cancellation" means the decision by the insurer

-2- INTRODUCED BILL

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LC 9950/01

LC 9950/01

to terminate an insurance policy prior to the expiration of tts term.

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- (3) "Classification" means an arrangement of insurance risks into an underwriting or rating group according to a classification system used by an insurer as a basis for tabulating statistical experience and determining premium rates.
- (4) "Classification system" means a schedule of classifications and a rule used by an insurer for determining the classifications applicable to an insured.
- (5) "Insurer" means an insurer authorized to transact property or casualty insurance in this state.
- (6) "Premium" means the contractual consideration charged to an insured for insurance for a specified period of time, regardless of the timing of actual charges.
 - (7) "Rate" means a monetary amount applied to the units of exposure assigned to a classification and used by an insurer to determine the premium for an insured.
- 19 (8) "Rating plan" means a rule used by an insurer to calculate:
 - (a) the premium for an insured; and
- 22 (b) the parameter values used in such calculation 23 after application of classification premium rates to units 24 of exposure.
- 25 (9) "Renewal" means an agreement between an insurer

- and an insured to extend or continue an existing insurance
- 2 policy for 90 days or more.
- 3 Section 3. Midterm cancellation. (1) An insurer may
- 4 not cancel an insurance policy before either the expiration
- 5 of the agreed term or 1 year from the effective date of the
 - policy or renewal date, whichever is less, except:
- 7 (a) for reasons specifically allowed by statute;
- (b) for failure to pay a premium when due; or
- 9 (c) on grounds stated in the policy which pertain to
 10 the following:
- 11 (i) material misrepresentation;
- (ii) substantial change in the risk assumed, except to
 the extent that the insurer should reasonably have foreseen
 the change or contemplated the risk when the contract was
 written:
- 16 (iii) substantial breaches of contractual duties, 17 conditions, or warranties;
- 18 (iv) determination by the commissioner that 19 continuation of the policy would place the insurer in 20 violation of this code:
- 21 (v) financial impairment of the insurer; or
- 22 (vi) any other reason approved by the commissioner.
- 23 (2) Cancellation under subsection (1) is not effective 24 until 10 days after a notice of cancellation is either 25 delivered or mailed to the insured.

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LC 9950/01

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a newly issued insurance policy if the policy has been in effect less than 60 days at the time the notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered. No cancellation under this subsection is effective until 10 days after the date of delivery or mailing.

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- (4) If a policy has been issued for a term longer than 1 year and if either the premium is prepaid or an agreed term is guaranteed for additional premium consideration, the insurer may not cancel the policy except:
- (a) for reasons specifically allowed by statute;
 - (b) for failure to pay a premium when due; or
- 13 (c) on grounds stated in the policy which pertain to 14 those grounds listed in subsection (1)(c).
 - Section 4. Anniversary cancellation -- anniversary rate increases. (1) An insurer may issue a policy for a term longer than 1 year or for an indefinite term if the policy contains a clause that allows cancellation by the insurer if the insurer gives notice 30 days prior to an anniversary date.
- 21 (2) If a policy has been issued for a term longer than
 22 l year and for additional premium consideration an annual
 23 premium has been guaranteed, the insurer may not increase
 24 the annual premium for the term of that policy.
- 25 Section 5. Nonrenewal -- renewal premium. (1) An

- insured has a right to reasonable notice of nonrenewal.
- Unless otherwise provided by statute or unless a longer term
- 3 is provided in the policy, at least 30 days prior to the
- 4 expiration date provided in the policy, an insurer who does
- 5 not intend to renew a policy beyond the agreed expiration
- 6 date shall mail or deliver to the insured a notice of such
- intention. The insurer shall also mail or deliver a copy to
- the insured's agent.
- 9 (2) An insurer shall give notice of premium due not
- 10 more than 60 days or less than 10 days before the due date
- 11 of a renewal premium. The notice must clearly state the
- .12 effect of nonpayment of the premium on or before the due
- 13 date.
- 14 (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply if:
- 15 (a) the insured has obtained insurance elsewhere, has
- 16 accepted replacement coverage, or has requested or agreed to
- 17 nonrenewal; or
- 18 (b) the policy is expressly designated as
- 19 nonrenewable.
- 20 Section 6. Renewal with altered terms. (1) If an
- 21 insurer offers or purports to renew a policy but on less
- 22 favorable terms, at a higher rate, or at a higher rating
- 23 plan, the new terms, rates, or rating plan take effect on
- 24 the policy renewal date only if the insurer has mailed or
- 25 delivered notice of the new terms, rates, or rating plan to

- 1 the insured at least 30 days before the expiration date. If 2 the insured has not been so notified, he may cancel the renewal policy within 30 days after receiving it. The 3 insured shall continue or terminate coverage not less than 4 30 days after mailing or delivery of the notice. If the 5 insured terminates the policy within the 30-day period, the 6 7 insurer shall calculate earned premium pro rata based upon 8 the prior policy's rate. The new rate is effective only 9 after the required 30-day notification period has been met. If the insured does not terminate the policy, the premium 10 11 increase and other changes are effective the day following 12 the prior policy's expiration or anniversary date.
 - (2) This section does not apply if:

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- (a) the change is a rate or rating plan filed with the commissioner and applicable to the entire classification or classification system to which the policy belongs; or
- (b) the increase in the rate or the rating plan, or both, results from a classification change based on the altered nature or extent of the risk insured against.
- Section 7. Information about grounds of nonrenewal.

 (1) If an insured questions the facts upon which an insurer's decision to cancel or not renew is based, the insurer shall mail or deliver such information within 15 working days of receiving a written request from the insured. A notice is not effective unless it contains

- adequate information about the insured's right to make the request.
- 3 (2) This section does not apply if the grounds for 4 cancellation or nonrenewal is nonpayment of the premium and 5 the notice so states.
- Section 8. Homeowners insurance not affected by day-care operations. (1) No insurer writing homeowners insurance in this state may deny an applicant homeowners insurance or cancel or refuse to renew a homeowners insurance policy covering a dwelling located in this state for the principal reason that an insured under the policy operates at the insured location a day-care facility, as defined in 53-4-501, that satisfies the requirements of 53-4-508 or 53-4-509.
- 15 (2) This section does not prevent an insurer from excluding or limiting coverage with respect to liability or property losses arising out of an insured's business pursuits, including those related to the operation of a day-care facility.
- 20 Section 9. Unfair trade practices. (1) The failure of 21 an insurer to comply with [sections 3 through 8] constitutes 22 an unfair trade practice under 33-18-1003.
- 23 (2) Midterm premium increases and policy coverage 24 reductions not in compliance with [sections 1 through 8] 25 that are attempted or executed constitute unfair trade

practices under 33-18-1003.

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2 Section 10. Extension of authority. Any existing 3 authority of the commissioner of insurance to make rules on 4 the subject of the provisions of this act is extended to the 5 provisions of this act.

Section 11. Codification instruction. Sections 1
through 9 are intended to be codified as an integral part of
Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to sections 1
through 9.

Section 12. Severability. If a part of this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

-End-

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freely.

HB 0254/02

APPROVED BY COMM. ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 254
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16	property or casualty insurance by:
17	(a) regulating the grounds for midterm cancellation of
18	an insurance policy;
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5	33-23-301, 33-23-302, and 33-23-401.

- (3) [Sections 1 through 9] do not limit the activities 7 that may constitute undefined unfair trade practices prohibited by 33-18-1003. The commissioner may apply other 8 provisions of this code to insurance transactions involving 10 cancellation, renewal, nonrenewal, or premium increases on 11 contracts of property or casualty insurance. Policies may 12 provide terms more favorable to insureds than are required 13 by [sections 1 through 9]. The rights provided by [sections 14 1 through 9] are in addition to and do not prejudice any 15 other rights that the insured may have under common law, 16 statutes, or rules.
- 17 Section 2. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 18 9], the following definitions apply unless the context 19 requires otherwise:
- 20 (1) "Anniversary date" means the month and day that
 21 rates, rating plans, and rating systems are initially
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- (4) "Classification system" means a schedule of classifications and a rule used by an insurer for determining the classifications applicable to an insured.
- (5) "Insurer" means an insurer authorized to transact property or casualty insurance in this state.
- 13 (6) "Premium" means the contractual consideration 14 charged to an insured for insurance for a specified period 15 of time, regardless of the timing of actual charges.
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- 2 policy for 90 days or more.
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- 4 not cancel an insurance policy before either the expiration
- of the agreed term or 1 year from the effective date of the
- 6 policy or renewal date, whichever is less, except:
- (a) for reasons specifically allowed by statute;
- (b) for failure to pay a premium when due; or
- 9 (c) on grounds stated in the policy which pertain to the following:
- 11 (i) material misrepresentation;
- 12 (ii) substantial change in the risk assumed, except to
- 13 the extent that the insurer should reasonably have foreseen
- 14 the change or contemplated the risk when the contract was
- 15 written:
- 16 (iii) substantial breaches of contractual duties,
- 17 conditions, or warranties;
- 18 (iv) determination by the commissioner that
- 19 continuation of the policy would place the insurer in
- 20 violation of this code;
- 21 (v) financial impairment of the insurer; or
- 22 (VI) LOSS BY THE INSURER OF ITS REINSURANCE CONTRACT;
- 23 OR
- 24 (vi)(VII) any other reason approved by the
- 25 commissioner.

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1 (2) Cancellation under subsection (1) is not effective 2 until 10 days after a notice of cancellation is either delivered or mailed to the insured. 3

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- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a newly issued insurance policy if the policy has been in effect less than 60 days at the time the notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered. No cancellation under this subsection is effective until 10 days after the date of delivery or mailing.
- (4) If a policy has been issued for a term longer than 10 l year and if either the premium is prepaid or an agreed 11 term is quaranteed for additional premium consideration, the 12 insurer may not cancel the policy except: 13
 - (a) for reasons specifically allowed by statute:
 - (b) for failure to pay a premium when due; or
- (c) on grounds stated in the policy which pertain to 16 those grounds listed in subsection (1)(c). 17
 - Section 4. Anniversary cancellation -- anniversary rate increases. (1) An insurer may issue a policy for a term longer than I year or for an indefinite term if the policy contains a clause that allows cancellation by the insurer if the insurer gives notice 30 days prior to an anniversary date.
- (2) If a policy has been issued for a term longer than 24 25 l year and for additional premium consideration an annual

- premium has been quaranteed, the insurer may not increase the annual premium for the term of that policy. 2
- 3 Section 5. Nonrenewal -- renewal premium. (1) An insured has a right to reasonable notice of nonrenewal. 5 Unless otherwise provided by statute or unless a longer term is provided in the policy, at least 30 days prior to the 7 expiration date provided in the policy, an insurer who does not intend to renew a policy beyond the agreed expiration 9 date shall mail or deliver to the insured a notice of such 10 intention. The insurer shall also mail or deliver a copy to the insured's agent.
- 12 (2) An insurer shall give notice of premium due not more than 60 days or less than 10 days before the due date 13 14 of a renewal premium. The notice must clearly state the effect of nonpayment of the premium on or before the due 15 date. 16
- 17 (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply if:
- (a) the insured has obtained insurance elsewhere, has 18 19 accepted replacement coverage, or has requested or agreed to 20 nonrenewal; or
- (b) the policy 21 expressly designated as 22 nonrenewable.
- Section 6. Renewal with altered terms. (1) If an 23 insurer offers or purports to renew a policy but on less 24 favorable terms, at a higher rate, or at a higher rating

- plan, the new terms, rates, or rating plan take effect on the policy renewal date only if the insurer has mailed or delivered notice of the new terms, rates, or rating plan to 3 the insured at least 30 days before the expiration date. If 5 the insured has not been so notified, he may cancel the renewal policy within 30 days after receiving it. The 6 7 insured shall continue or terminate coverage not less than 30 days after mailing or delivery of the notice. If the 9 insured terminates the policy within the 30-day period, the insurer shall calculate earned premium pro rata based upon 10 the prior policy's rate. The new rate is effective only 11 after the required 30-day notification period has been met. 12 13 If the insured does not terminate the policy, the premium increase and other changes are effective the day following 14 15 the prior policy's expiration or anniversary date. 16
 - (2) This section does not apply if:

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- 17 (a) the change is a rate or rating plan filed with the commissioner and applicable to the entire classification or classification system to which the policy belongs; or
- 20 (b) the increase in the rate or the rating plan, or 21 both, results from a classification change based on the altered nature or extent of the risk insured against. 22
- 23 Section 7. Information about grounds of nonrenewal. 24 (1) If an insured questions the facts upon which an 25 insurer's decision to cancel or not renew is based, the

- insurer shall mail or deliver such information within 15
- 2 working days of receiving a written request from the
- insured. A notice is not effective unless it contains
- adequate information about the insured's right to make the
- request.
- (2) This section does not apply if the grounds for cancellation or nonrenewal is nonpayment of the premium and the notice so states.
- 9 Section 8. Homeowners insurance not affected by 10 day-care operations. (1) No insurer writing homeowners insurance in this state may deny an applicant homeowners 11 12 insurance or cancel or refuse to renew a homeowners
- 13 insurance policy covering a dwelling located in this state
- 14 for the principal reason that an insured under the policy
- 15 operates at the insured location a day-care facility, as defined in 53-4-501, that satisfies the requirements of 16
- 17 53-4-508 or 53-4-509.
- (2) This section does not prevent an insurer from 18
- 19 excluding or limiting coverage with respect to liability or
- 20 property losses arising out of an insured's business
- 21 pursuits, including those related to the operation of a
- 22 day-care facility.
- 23 Section 9. Unfair trade practices. (1) The failure of
- 24 an insurer to comply with [sections 3 through 8] constitutes
- 25 an unfair trade practice under 33-18-1003.

- 1 (2) Midterm premium increases and policy coverage 2 reductions not in compliance with [sections 1 through 8] 3 that are attempted or executed constitute unfair trade 4 practices under 33-18-1003.
- 5 Section 10. Extension of authority. Any existing 6 authority of the commissioner of insurance to make rules on 7 the subject of the provisions of this act is extended to the 8 provisions of this act.
- 9 Section 11. Codification instruction. Sections 1 10 through 9 are intended to be codified as an integral part of 11 Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to sections 1 12 through 9.
- 13 Section 12. Severability. If a part of this act is 14 invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid 15 part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in 16 one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect 17 in all valid applications that are severable from the 18 invalid applications.

-End-

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- (2) [Sections 1 through 9] apply to those forms of 3 insurance defined in 33-1-206 and 33-1-210, except to the extent they conflict with 33-23-211 through 33-23-214, 33-23-301, 33-23-302, and 33-23-401.
- 6 (3) [Sections 1 through 9] do not limit the activities that may constitute undefined unfair trade practices prohibited by 33-18-1003. The commissioner may apply other provisions of this code to insurance transactions involving 9 10 cancellation, renewal, nonrenewal, or premium increases on contracts of property or casualty insurance. Policies may 11 provide terms more favorable to insureds than are required 12 13 by [sections 1 through 9]. The rights provided by [sections 1 through 9] are in addition to and do not prejudice any other rights that the insured may have under common law, statutes, or rules.
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- 20 (1) "Anniversary date" means the month and day that rates, rating plans, and rating systems are initially 21 22 applied to a policy in effect. The term includes each annual anniversary thereafter unless the insurer establishes a 23 24 different date by a filing with the commissioner.
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- 5 of the agreed term or 1 year from the effective date of the
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- (b) for failure to pay a premium when due; or
- 9 (c) on grounds stated in the policy which pertain to
- 11 (i) material misrepresentation;
- 12 (ii) substantial change in the risk assumed, except to
- 13 the extent that the insurer should reasonably have foreseen
- 14 the change or contemplated the risk when the contract was
- 15 written;

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- 16 (iii) substantial breaches of contractual duties,
- 17 conditions, or warranties;

the following:

- 18 (iv) determination by the commissioner that
- 19 continuation of the policy would place the insurer in
- 20 violation of this code;
- 21 (v) financial impairment of the insurer; or OR
- 22 <u>{VI}-boss-BY-THE-INSURER-OP-ITS--REINSURANCE--CONTRACT;</u>
- 23 OR
- 24 (vi)(VII) any other reason approved by the
- 25 commissioner.

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(2) Cancellation under subsection (1) is not effective until 10 days after a notice of cancellation is either delivered or mailed to the insured.

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 the annual premium for the term of that policy.
- Section 5. Nonrenewal -- renewal premium. (1) An 3 insured has a right to reasonable notice of nonrenewal. 4 Unless otherwise provided by statute or unless a longer term 5 is provided in the policy, at least 30 days prior to the 7 expiration date provided in the policy, an insurer who does not intend to renew a policy beyond the agreed expiration В date shall mail or deliver to the insured a notice of such intention. The insurer shall also mail or deliver a copy to 10 the insured's agent. 11
 - (2) An insurer shall give notice of premium due not more than 60 days or less than 10 days before the due date of a renewal premium. The notice must clearly state the effect of nonpayment of the premium on or before the due date.
- 17 (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply if:
- 18 (a) the insured has obtained insurance elsewhere, has
 19 accepted replacement coverage, or has requested or agreed to
 20 nonrenewal; or
- 21 (b) the policy is expressly designated as 22 nonrenewable.
- 23 Section 6. Renewal with altered terms. (1) If an 24 insurer offers or purports to renew a policy but on less 25 favorable terms, at a higher rate, or at a higher rating

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plan, the new terms, rates, or rating plan take effect on 1 the policy renewal date only if the insurer has mailed or 2 delivered notice of the new terms, rates, or rating plan to 3 the insured at least 30 days before the expiration date. If 4 the insured has not been so notified, he may cancel the renewal policy within 30 days after receiving it. The 7 insured shall continue or terminate coverage not less than 8 30 days after mailing or delivery of the notice. If the 9 insured terminates the policy within the 30-day period, the insurer shall calculate earned premium pro rata based upon 10 11 the prior policy's rate. The new rate is effective only after the required 30-day notification period has been met. 12 If the insured does not terminate the policy, the premium 13 increase and other changes are effective the day following 14 the prior policy's expiration or anniversary date. 15

(2) This section does not apply if:

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- (a) the change is a rate or rating plan filed with the commissioner and applicable to the entire classification or classification system to which the policy belongs; or
- (b) the increase in the rate or the rating plan, or both, results from a classification change based on the altered nature or extent of the risk insured against.
- 23 Section 7. Information about grounds of nonrenewal.
 24 (1) If an insured questions the facts upon which an
 25 insurer's decision to cancel or not renew is based, the

- insurer shall mail or deliver such information within 15 working days of receiving a written request from the insured. A notice is not effective unless it contains adequate information about the insured's right to make the request.
- 6 (2) This section does not apply if the grounds for 7 cancellation or nonrenewal is nonpayment of the premium and 8 the notice so states.
- Section 8. Homeowners insurance not affected by 9 day-care operations. (1) No insurer writing homeowners 10 insurance in this state may deny an applicant homeowners 11 insurance or cancel or refuse to renew a homeowners 12 insurance policy covering a dwelling located in this state 13 for the principal reason that an insured under the policy 14 15 operates at the insured location a day-care facility, as defined in 53-4-501, that satisfies the requirements of 16 17 53-4-508 or 53-4-509.
- 18 (2) This section does not prevent an insurer from
 19 excluding or limiting coverage with respect to liability or
 20 property losses arising out of an insured's business
 21 pursuits, including those related to the operation of a
 22 day-care facility.
- 23. Section 9. Unfair trade practices. (1) The failure of 24 an insurer to comply with [sections 3 through 8] constitutes 25 an unfair trade practice under 33-18-1003.

(2) Midterm premium increases and policy coverage reductions not in compliance with [sections 1 through 8] that are attempted or executed constitute unfair trade practices under 33-18-1003.

Section 10. Extension of authority. Any existing authority of the commissioner of insurance to make rules on the subject of the provisions of this act is extended to the provisions of this act.

Section 11. Codification instruction. Sections 1 through 9 are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 33, and the provisions of Title 33 apply to sections 1 through 9.

Section 12. Severability. If a part of this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

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2	INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, B. BROWN
3	BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE
4	ON LIABILITY ISSUES
5	
6	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REGULATING THE GROUND
7	ON WHICH PROPERTY OR CASUALTY INSURANCE MAY BE CANCELED O
8	NOT RENEWED; AND REQUIRING NOTICE OF CANCELLATION O
9	NONRENEWAL OF A PROPERTY OR CASUALTY POLICY."
10	
11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
12	Section 1. Purpose applicability. (1) The purpose
13	of [sections 1 through 9] is to protect the public with
14	regard to insurance transactions that involve cancellation
15	renewal, nonrenewal, or premium increases on contracts o
16	property or casualty insurance by:
17	(a) regulating the grounds for midterm cancellation of
18	an insurance policy;
19	(b) prohibiting midterm increases in premiums;
20	(c) increasing the opportunity for insureds to sho
21	for replacement or substitute insurance;
22	(d) reducing the opportunity for breach of contract
23	misrepresentation by omission or untimely disclosure, and
24	unfair discrimination among insureds; and
25	(e) increasing the opportunity for agents to compete

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2	(2)	[Secti	ons l	throu	gh 9]	apply	to thos	e for	ms of
3	insurance	define	d in 3	3-1-206	and 33	3-1-210,	excep	t to	the
4	extent th	hey co	nflict	with	33-23-	- 211 el	rough	3 3-2 3	-2147
5	33-23-301	7-33- 2 3	-362,-	-and3	3-23-46	H CHAI	TER 23	OF	THIS

6 TITLE.

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(3) [Sections 1 through 9] do not limit the activities 7 that may constitute undefined unfair trade practices 8 prohibited by 33-18-1003. The commissioner may apply other 9 provisions of this code to insurance transactions involving 10 cancellation, renewal, nonrenewal, or premium increases on 11 contracts of property or casualty insurance. Policies may 12 provide terms more favorable to insureds than are required 13 by [sections 1 through 9]. The rights provided by [sections 14 1 through 9] are in addition to and do not prejudice any 15 other rights that the insured may have under common law, 16 17 statutes, or rules.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 9], the following definitions apply unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Anniversary date" means the month and day that rates, rating plans, and rating systems are initially applied to a policy in effect. The term includes each annual anniversary thereafter unless the insurer establishes a different date by a filing with the commissioner.

1.		(2) "Cancellation" means the decision by the insurer
2	to	terminate an insurance policy prior to the expiration of
3	its	term,

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- (3) "Classification" means an arrangement of insurance risks into an underwriting or rating group according to a classification system used by an insurer as a basis for tabulating statistical experience and determining premium rates.
- 9 (4) "Classification system" means a schedule of
 10 classifications and a rule used by an insurer for
 11 determining the classifications applicable to an insured.
- 12 (5) "Insurer" means an insurer authorized to transact
 13 property or casualty insurance in this state.
 - (6) "Premium" means the contractual consideration charged to an insured for insurance for a specified period of time, regardless of the timing of actual charges.
- 17 (7) "Rate" means a monetary amount applied to the 18 units of exposure assigned to a classification and used by 19 an insurer to determine the premium for an insured.
- 20 (8) "Rating plan" means a rule used by an insurer to calculate:
- (a) the premium for an insured; and
- 23 (b) the parameter values used in such calculation 24 after application of classification premium rates to units 25 of exposure.

- 1 (9) "Renewal" means an agreement between an insurer
 2 and an insured to extend or continue an existing insurance
 3 policy for 90 days or more.
 - Section 3. Midterm cancellation. (1) An insurer may not cancel an insurance policy before either the expiration of the agreed term or 1 year from the effective date of the policy or renewal date, whichever is less, except:
 - (a) for reasons specifically allowed by statute;
 - (b) for failure to pay a premium when due; or
- 10 (c) on grounds stated in the policy which pertain to
 11 the following:
- 12 (i) material misrepresentation;
- (ii) substantial change in the risk assumed, except to
 the extent that the insurer should reasonably have foreseen
 the change or contemplated the risk when the contract was
 written:
- 17 (iii) substantial breaches of contractual duties,
 18 conditions, or warranties;
- 19 (iv) determination by the commissioner that
 20 continuation of the policy would place the insurer in
 21 violation of this code;
- 22 (v) financial impairment of the insurer; or OR
- 23 <u>{VI}-LOSS-BY-THB-INSURER-OF-ITS-REINSURANCE-CONTRACT;</u>
- 24 <u>⊖R</u>

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25 {vi}{VII}(VI) any other reason approved by the

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commissioner.

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- (2) Cancellation under subsection (1) is not effective until 10 days after a notice of cancellation is either delivered or mailed to the insured.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a newly issued insurance policy if the policy has been in effect less than 60 days at the time the notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered. No cancellation under this subsection is effective until 10 days after the date--of--delivery--or mailing NOTICE IS DELIVERED OR MAILED TO THE INSURED.
- (4) If a policy has been issued for a term longer than 1 year and if either the premium is prepaid or an agreed term is guaranteed for additional premium consideration, the insurer may not cancel the policy except:
 - (a) for reasons specifically allowed by statute;
 - (b) for failure to pay a premium when due; or
- (c) on grounds stated in the policy which pertain to 18 those grounds listed in subsection (1)(c).
 - Section 4. Anniversary cancellation -- anniversary rate increases. (1) An insurer may issue a policy for a term longer than 1 year or for an indefinite term if the policy contains a clause that allows cancellation by the insurer if the insurer gives notice 30 days prior to an anniversary date.

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(2) If a policy has been issued for a term longer than 25

l year and for additional premium consideration an annual 1 2 premium has been quaranteed, the insurer may not increase the annual premium for the term of that policy. 3

Section 5. Nonrenewal -- renewal premium. (1) An 4 insured has a right to reasonable notice of nonrenewal. Unless otherwise provided by statute or unless a longer term is provided in the policy, at least 30 days prior to the expiration date provided in the policy, an insurer who does not intend to renew a policy beyond the agreed expiration date shall mail or deliver to the insured a notice of such 10 intention. The insurer shall also mail or deliver a copy to 11 the insured's agent. 12

- (2) An insurer shall give notice of premium due not 13 more than 60 days or less than 10 days before the due date 14 of a renewal premium. The notice must clearly state the 15 effect of nonpayment of the premium on or before the due 16 17 date.
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- (a) the insured has obtained insurance elsewhere, has 19 accepted replacement coverage, or has requested or agreed to 20 nonrenewal; or 21
- (b) the policy is expressly 22 designated nonrenewable. 23
- Section 6. Renewal with altered terms. (1) If an 24 insurer offers or purports to renew a policy but on less

to make the request.

- favorable terms, at a higher rate, or at a higher rating 1 plan, the new terms, rates, or rating plan take effect on 2 the policy renewal date only if the insurer has mailed or 3 delivered notice of the new terms, rates, or rating plan to 4 the insured at least 30 days before the expiration date. If the insured has not been so notified, he may cancel the renewal policy within 30 days after receiving it THE NOTICE. 7 A The insured INSURER shall continue or-terminate coverage FOR A PERIOD OF not less than 30 days after mailing or delivery 9 10 of the notice. If the insured terminates the policy within the 30-day period, the insurer shall calculate earned 11 premium pro rata based upon the prior policy's rate. The new 12 rate is effective only after the required 30-day 13 14 notification period has been met. If the insured does not terminate the policy, the premium increase and other changes 15 are effective the day following the prior policy's 16 expiration or anniversary date. 17 18
 - (2) This section does not apply if:
- 19 (a) the change is a rate or rating plan filed with the 20 commissioner and applicable to the entire classification or classification system to which the policy belongs; or 21
- (b) the increase in the rate or the rating plan, or 22 23 both, results from a classification change based on the altered nature or extent of the risk insured against. 24
- 25 Section 7. Information about grounds of nonrenewal.

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- (1) If an insured questions the facts upon which an 1 insurer's decision to cancel or not renew is based, the insurer shall mail or deliver such information TO THE 3 INSURED within 15 working days of receiving a written 5 request from the insured. A notice is not effective unless it contains adequate information about the insured's right
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- 11 Section 8. Homeowners insurance not affected by 12 day-care operations. (1) No insurer writing homeowners insurance in this state may deny an applicant homeowners 13 insurance or cancel or refuse to renew a homeowners 14 insurance policy covering a dwelling located in this state 15 16 for the principal reason that an insured under the policy 17 operates at the insured location a day-care facility, as defined in 53-4-501, that satisfies the requirements of 18 53-4-508 or 53-4-509. 19
- (2) This section does not prevent an insurer from 20 21 excluding or limiting coverage with respect to liability or property losses arising out of an insured's business 22 pursuits, including those related to the operation of a 23 day-care facility. 24
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