1	Senate BILL NO. 270
2	INTRODUCED BY BENEDICT
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXPANDING INSURANCE FRAUD TO COVER AN ACT OF
5	ACTUAL FRAUD OR CONSTRUCTIVE FRAUD BY AN INSURER OR PURPORTED INSURER AGAINST AN
6	INSURED OR PROSPECTIVE INSURED; AND AMENDING SECTION 33-1-1202, MCA."
7	
8	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
9	
10	Section 1. Section 33-1-1202, MCA, is amended to read:
11	"33-1-1202. Insurance fraud. (1) A person commits the act of insurance fraud when the person:
12	(1)(a) for the purpose of obtaining any money or benefit, presents or causes to be presented to any
13	insurer, purported insurer, broker, or agent any written or oral statement, including computer-generated
14	documents, containing false, incomplete, or misleading information concerning any fact or thing material
15	to, as part of, or in support of a claim for payment or other benefit pursuant to an insurance policy;
16	(2)(b) assists, abets, solicits, or conspires with another to prepare or make any written or oral
17	statement containing false, incomplete, or misleading information concerning any fact that is intended to
18	be presented to any insurer or purported insurer or in connection with, material to, or in support of any
19	claim for payment or other benefit pursuant to an insurance policy or contract;
20	(3)(c) presents or causes to be presented to or by an insurer, purported insurer, broker, or agent
21	a materially false or altered application of insurance;
22	(4)(d) accepts premium money knowing that coverage will not be provided;
23	(ि) (e) as a health care provider, submits a false or altered bill or report of physical condition to an
24	insurer; or
25	(6)(f) offers or accepts a direct or indirect inducement to file a false statement of claim with the
26	intent of deceiving an insurer.
27	(2) An insurer, purported insurer, broker, or agent commits the act of insurance fraud by
28	committing actual fraud, as defined in 28-2-405, or constructive fraud, as defined in 28-2-406, against ar
29	insured or prospective insured."
30	-END-



Legislative Services Division

1	SENATE BILL NO. 270
2	INTRODUCED BY BENEDICT
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXPANDING INSURANCE FRAUD TO COVER AN ACT OF
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6	INSURED OR PROSPECTIVE INSURED; AND AMENDING SECTION 33 1 1202, MCA. CLARIFYING AND
7	EXPANDING INSURANCE AND SECURITIES FRAUD; CREATING AN INSURANCE AND SECURITIES
8	EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM; REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF SUSPECTED INSURANCE AND
9	SECURITIES FRAUD TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE AND COMMISSIONER OF SECURITIES;
10	CLARIFYING THE OFFENSE OF THEFT; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR INSURANCE AND SECURITIES
11	FRAUD."
12	
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
14	(Refer to Introduced Bill)
15	Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:
16	
17	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Insurance and securities fraud education program. The commissioner
18	may:
19	(1) establish an education and prevention program for those people who are affected by insurance
20	or securities fraud; and
21	(2) conduct investigations of insurance and securities fraud.
22	
23	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Insurance fraud. (1) A person commits the act of insurance fraud when
24	in the course of offering or selling insurance, the person misrepresents a material fact, known to the person
25	to be untrue or made with reckless indifference as to whether it is true, with the intention of causing
26	another person to rely upon the misrepresentation to that relying person's detriment.
27	(2) The commissioner may, after having conducted a hearing pursuant to 33-1-701, impose the
28	penalties provided for in 33-1-317 for a violation of this section. Failure to pay a fine under this section
29	results in a lien upon the assets and property of the person as provided in 33-1-318(3).
30	(3) In addition to any penalty provided for in 33-1-317, the commissioner may require a person who

commits insurance fraud to make full restitution to the victim for all financial losses sustained as a result of the fraud with interest of 10% a year from the date of the fraud plus any costs and reasonable attorney fees, less the amount of any income or refund received by the victim from the insurance.

- (4) The commissioner may require a person who commits insurance fraud to make full restitution to any insurer, purported insurer, or insurance producer who may have sustained any losses as a result of the fraud with interest of 10% a year from the date of the loss plus any costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- (5) An insurer, insurance producer, or other person who sustained any losses and who was awarded restitution may, in addition to the commissioner, bring suit to recover those sums, including any attorney fees, interest at 10% a year, and costs incurred in obtaining a judgment.
- (6) Failure of a person to pay any amount ordered under this section constitutes a forfeiture of the right to do business in this state.
- (7) A person who purposely or knowingly is involved in the misappropriation or theft of insurance premiums or proceeds commits the offense of theft and is punishable as provided in 45-6-301, and the commissioner may refer evidence concerning the violation to the attorney general or other appropriate prosecuting attorney.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 3. Reporting requirements. (1) An insurer, insurance producer, or other person who has reason to believe insurance fraud has occurred shall report the suspected fraud to the commissioner or to the insurance producer's or other person's insurer within 60 days of discovery of the occurrence. An insurer shall forward any reports from a producer or employee that it receives within 30 days of receipt.

(2) In the absence of malice, an insurer, insurance producer, or other person may not be subjected to civil liability for reporting or providing information or otherwise cooperating with an investigation of insurance fraud.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Securities restitution. (1) The commissioner may, after conducting a hearing pursuant to 30-10-305, require a person found to have committed a violation of 30-10-301 to make restitution for all financial losses sustained by any person as a result of the violation. The commissioner may further require a person found to have violated 30-10-301 to pay 10% annual interest on the amount of restitution from the date of the violation, reasonable attorney fees, and costs associated



1	with bringing the administrative action.
2	(2) An amount required to be pa

- (2) An amount required to be paid under this section is in addition to all other penalties imposed by law. If a person fails to pay an amount referred to in this section, the amount required to be paid is a lien upon all of the assets and property of the person in this state and may be recovered by suit by the commissioner and remitted to the person ordered to receive restitution.
- (3) The commissioner or a person awarded restitution may bring suit in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover the sums awarded, attorney fees, and costs incurred in obtaining a judgment.
- (4) Failure of a person to pay any amount ordered under this section constitutes a forfeiture of the right to do business in this state.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 5. Reporting requirements. (1) A broker-dealer, investment adviser, investment adviser representative, or other person who has reason to believe fraud has occurred shall report the suspected fraud to the commissioner within 60 days of discovery of the occurrence.

- (2) In the absence of malice, a broker-dealer, investment adviser, investment adviser representative, or other person may not be subjected to civil liability for reporting or providing information or otherwise cooperating with an investigation of fraud under this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. (1) [Sections 1 through 3] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 33, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 33, chapter 1, apply to [sections 1 through 3].
- (2) [Sections 4 and 5] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 30, chapter 10, part 3, and the provisions of Title 30, chapter 10, part 3, apply to [sections 4 and 5].
- 23 -END-



Legislative Services Division

1	SENATE BILL NO. 270
2	INTRODUCED BY BENEDICT
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXPANDING INSURANCE FRAUD TO COVER AN ACT OF
5	ACTUAL FRAUD OR CONSTRUCTIVE FRAUD BY AN INSURER OR PURPORTED INSURER AGAINST AN
6	INSURED OR PROSPECTIVE INSURED; AND AMENDING SECTION 33-1-1202, MCA. CLARIFYING AND
7	EXPANDING INSURANCE AND SECURITIES FRAUD; CREATING AN INSURANCE AND SECURITIES
8	EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM; REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF SUSPECTED INSURANCE AND
9	SECURITIES FRAUD TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE AND COMMISSIONER OF SECURITIES;
10	CLARIFYING THE OFFENSE OF THEFT; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR INSURANCE AND SECURITIES
11	FRAUD."
12	
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
14	(Refer to Introduced Bill)
15	Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:
16	
17	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Insurance and securities fraud education program. The commissioner
18	may:
19	(1) establish an education and prevention program for those people who are affected by insurance
20	or securities fraud; and
21	(2) conduct investigations of insurance and securities fraud.
22	
23	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Insurance fraud. (1) A person commits the act of insurance fraud when
24	in the course of offering or selling insurance, the person misrepresents a material fact, known to the person
25	to be untrue or made with reckless indifference as to whether it is true, with the intention of causing
26	another person to rely upon the misrepresentation to that relying person's detriment.
27	(2) The commissioner may, after having conducted a hearing pursuant to 33-1-701, impose the
28	penalties provided for in 33-1-317 for a violation of this section. Failure to pay a fine under this section
29	results in a lien upon the assets and property of the person as provided in 33-1-318(3).
30	(3) In addition to any penalty provided for in 33-1-317, the commissioner may require a person who

- commits insurance fraud to make full restitution to the victim for all financial losses sustained as a result of the fraud with interest of 10% a year from the date of the fraud plus any costs and reasonable attorney fees, less the amount of any income or refund received by the victim from the insurance.
- (4) The commissioner may require a person who commits insurance fraud to make full restitution to any insurer, purported insurer, or insurance producer who may have sustained any losses as a result of the fraud with interest of 10% a year from the date of the loss plus any costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- (5) An insurer, insurance producer, or other person who sustained any losses and who was awarded restitution may, in addition to the commissioner, bring suit to recover those sums, including any attorney fees, interest at 10% a year, and costs incurred in obtaining a judgment.
- (6) Failure of a person to pay any amount ordered under this section constitutes a forfeiture of the right to do business in this state.
- (7) A person who purposely or knowingly is involved in the misappropriation or theft of insurance premiums or proceeds commits the offense of theft and is punishable as provided in 45-6-301, and the commissioner may refer evidence concerning the violation to the attorney general or other appropriate prosecuting attorney.

- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Reporting requirements. (1) An insurer, insurance producer, or other person who has reason to believe insurance fraud has occurred shall report the suspected fraud to the commissioner or to the insurance producer's or other person's insurer within 60 days of discovery of the occurrence. An insurer shall forward any reports from a producer or employee that it receives within 30 days of receipt.
- (2) In the absence of malice, an insurer, insurance producer, or other person may not be subjected to civil liability for reporting or providing information or otherwise cooperating with an investigation of insurance fraud.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Securities restitution. (1) The commissioner may, after conducting a hearing pursuant to 30-10-305, require a person found to have committed a violation of 30-10-301 to make restitution for all financial losses sustained by any person as a result of the violation. The commissioner may further require a person found to have violated 30-10-301 to pay 10% annual interest on the amount of restitution from the date of the violation, reasonable attorney fees, and costs associated



1	with bringing the administrative action.
2	(2) An amount required to be paid under this section is in addition to all other penalties imposed by
3	law. If a person fails to pay an amount referred to in this section, the amount required to be paid is a lier
4	upon all of the assets and property of the person in this state and may be recovered by suit by the
5	commissioner and remitted to the person ordered to receive restitution.
6	(3) The commissioner or a person awarded restitution may bring suit in a court of competen
7	jurisdiction to recover the sums awarded, attorney fees, and costs incurred in obtaining a judgment.
8	(4) Failure of a person to pay any amount ordered under this section constitutes a forfeiture of the
9	right to do business in this state.
10	
11	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Reporting requirements. (1) A broker-dealer, investment adviser
12	investment adviser representative, or other person who has reason to believe fraud has occurred shall report
13	the suspected fraud to the commissioner within 60 days of discovery of the occurrence.
14	(2) In the absence of malice, a broker-dealer, investment adviser, investment adviser representative
15	or other person may not be subjected to civil liability for reporting or providing information or otherwise
16	cooperating with an investigation of fraud under this chapter.
17	
18	NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. (1) [Sections 1 through 3] are intended to be
19	godified as an integral part of Title 33, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 33, chapter 1, apply to
20	[sections 1 through 3].
21	(2) [Sections 4 and 5] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 30, chapter 10, par

3, and the provisions of Title 30, chapter 10, part 3, apply to [sections 4 and 5].



22

23

-END-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for SB0270, third reading

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act clarifying and expanding insurance and securities fraud.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- Passage and approval of this bill will add workload to the State Auditor's Office (SAO) estimated to require an additional 1.00 FTE compliance specialist/ investigator, grade 14, and associated operating expenses and start-up equipment.
- 2. The additional staff person will offer compliance, investigation, and education services to address insurance fraud investigations and securities fraud cases.
- 3. Section 33-1-317, MCA, provides for administrative fines of up to \$25,000 for insurance companies and \$5,000 for insurance producers per violation.
- 4. Section 30-10-305, MCA, provides for \$5,000 per violation in administrative fines for securities violations.
- 5. The combined enforcement collection deposited to the general fund, based on six administrative actions, one of which is estimated to be appealed to the fair hearing process, for both insurance and securities, and based on an average fine of \$3,500 for five of the administrative actions, will be \$17,500 per year (\$3,500 x 5).

FISCAL IMPACT:

State Auditor's Office:

State Additor's Office.		
	<u>FY98</u>	<u>FY99</u>
Expenditures:	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Difference</u>
FTE	1.00	1.00
Personal Services	31,835	31,835
Operating Expenses	7,300	7,300
Equipment	<u>3,585</u>	0
Total	42,720	39,135
<u>Funding:</u> General Fund (01)	42,720	39,135
Revenues: General Fund (fines) (01)	17,500	17,500
Net Impact on Fund Balance:	(Revenues minus	expenses)

Net Impact on Fund Balance: (Revenues minus expenses)
General Fund (01) (25,220) (21,635)

DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning

STEVE BENEDICT, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

Fiscal Note for SB0270, third reading

APPROVED BY COM ON JUDICIARY

1	SENATE BILL NO. 270
2	INTRODUCED BY BENEDICT
3	
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7	EXPANDING INSURANCE AND SECURITIES FRAUD; CREATING AN INSURANCE AND SECURITIES FRAUD
8	EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM; REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF SUSPECTED INSURANCE AND
9	SECURITIES FRAUD TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE AND COMMISSIONER OF SECURITIES;
10	CLARIFYING THE OFFENSE OF THEFT; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR INSURANCE AND SECURITIES
11	FRAUD."
12	
13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
14	(Refer to Introduced Bill)
15	Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:
16	
17	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Insurance and securities fraud education AND PREVENTION program.
18	The commissioner may:
19	(1) establish an INSURANCE AND SECURITIES FRAUD education and prevention program for those
20	people who are affected by insurance or securities fraud; and
21	(2) conduct investigations of insurance and securities fraud.
22	
23	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Insurance fraud. (1) A person commits the act of insurance fraud when
24	in the course of offering or selling insurance, the person misrepresents a material fact, known to the person
25	to be untrue or made with reckless indifference as to whether it is true, with the intention of causing
26	another person to rely upon the misrepresentation to that relying person's detriment.
27	(2) The commissioner may, after having conducted a hearing pursuant to 33-1-701, impose the
28	penalties provided for in 33-1-317 for a violation of this section. Failure to pay a fine under this section
29	results in a lien upon the assets and property of the person as provided in 33-1-318(3).
30	(3) In addition to any penalty provided for in 33-1-317, the commissioner may require a person

55th Legislature SB0270.03

REGULATED UNDER THIS TITLE who commits insurance fraud to make full restitution to the victim for all financial losses sustained as a result of the fraud with interest of 10% a year from the date of the fraud plus any costs and reasonable attorney fees, less the amount of any income or refund received by the victim from the insurance.

- (4) The commissioner may require a person who commits insurance fraud to make full restitution to any insurer, purported insurer, or insurance producer who may have sustained any losses as a result of the fraud with interest of 10% a year from the date of the loss plus any costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- (5) An insurer, insurance producer, or other person who sustained any losses and who was awarded restitution may, in addition to the commissioner, bring suit to recover those sums, including any attorney fees, interest at 10% a year, and costs incurred in obtaining a judgment.
- (6) Failure of a person to pay any amount ordered under this section constitutes a forfeiture of the right to do business in this state.
- (7) A person who purposely or knowingly is involved in the misappropriation or theft of insurance premiums or proceeds commits the offense of theft and is punishable as provided in 45-6-301, and the commissioner may refer evidence concerning the violation to the attorney general or other appropriate prosecuting attorney.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 3. Reporting requirements. (1) An insurer, insurance producer, or other person who has reason to believe insurance fraud has occurred shall report the suspected fraud to the commissioner or to the insurance producer's or other person's insurer within 60 days of discovery of the occurrence. An insurer shall forward <u>TO THE COMMISSIONER</u> any reports from a producer or employee that it receives within 30 days of receipt.

(2) In the absence of malice, an insurer, insurance producer, or other person may not be subjected to civil liability for reporting or providing information or otherwise cooperating with an investigation of insurance fraud.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Securities restitution. (1) The commissioner may, after conducting a hearing pursuant to 30-10-305, require a person found to have committed a violation of 30-10-301 to make restitution for all financial losses sustained by any person as a result of the violation. The commissioner may further require a person found to have violated 30-10-301 to pay 10% annual interest



on the amount of restitution from the date of the violation, reasonable attorney fees, and costs associated
with bringing the administrative action.
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-END-

3, and the provisions of Title 30, chapter 10, part 3, apply to [sections 4 and 5].

1	SENATE BILL NO. 270
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(2) In the absence of malice, an insurer, insurance producer, or other person may not be subjected to civil liability for reporting or providing information or otherwise cooperating with an investigation of insurance fraud.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Section 4. Securities restitution. (1) The commissioner may, after conducting a hearing pursuant to 30-10-305, require a person found to have committed a violation of 30-10-301 to

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(2) In the absence of malice, a broker-dealer, investment adviser, investment adviser representative, or other person may not be subjected to civil liability for reporting or providing information or otherwise cooperating with an investigation of fraud under this chapter.

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. (1) [Sections 1 through 3] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 33, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 33, chapter 1, apply to [sections 1 through 3].

(2) [Sections 4 and 5] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 30, chapter 10, part 3, and the provisions of Title 30, chapter 10, part 3, apply to [sections 4 and 5].

-END-

