1	AN ACT	
2	RELATING TO INSURANCE; AMENDING THE NEW MEXICO INSURANCE CODE	
3	TO MODERNIZE THE REGULATION OF PROPERTY AND CASUALTY RATES	
4	AND FORMS; INCREASING PENALTIES.	
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6	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:	
7	Section 1. Section 59A-17-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984,	
8	Chapter 127, Section 299) is amended to read:	
9	"59A-17-1. SHORT TITLEChapter 59A, Article 17 NMSA	
10	1978 may be cited as the "Insurance Rate Regulation Law"."	
11	Section 2. Section 59A-17-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984,	
12	Chapter 127, Section 297) is amended to read:	
13	"59A-17-2. SCOPE OF ARTICLEEXEMPTIONS	
14	A. The Insurance Rate Regulation Law applies to	
15	all kinds and lines of direct insurance written on risks or	
16	operations in this state by any authorized insurer, except:	
17	(1) wet marine and transportation insurance,	
18	as defined in Section 59A-7-5 NMSA 1978;	
19	(2) life insurance;	
20	(3) variable and fixed annuities; and	
21	(4) health insurance.	
22	B. For purposes of the Insurance Rate Regulation	
23	Law, "workers' compensation" insurance includes employer's	
24	liability insurance.	
25	C. The superintendent may by order exempt any	SB 483 Page l

person or class of persons or any market segment from any or all of the provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law to the extent that the superintendent finds the provision or provisions unnecessary to achieve the purposes of that law."

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Section 3. Section 59A-17-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 300) is amended to read:

"59A-17-4. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Insurance Rate Regulation Law:

"advisory organization" means an entity, 9 Α. including its affiliates or subsidiaries, that either has two 10 or more member insurers or is controlled either directly or 11 indirectly by two or more insurers, and that assists insurers 12 in the promulgation of policy forms; in ratemaking 13 activities, such as the collection, compilation and 14 15 furnishing of loss or expense statistics; or in the recommendation, making or filing of rates, prospective loss 16 costs, supplementary rate information, policy forms or 17 endorsements. Two or more insurers having a common ownership 18 or operating in New Mexico under common management or control 19 20 constitute a single insurer for purposes of this definition;

B. "commercial insurance" means any line or kind
of property or casualty insurance not for personal, family or
household needs;

24 C. "market" means any line or kind of insurance or 25 any subdivision thereof or any class of risks or combination SB 483 Page 2 of classes;

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2 "residual market mechanism" means an D. 3 arrangement, either voluntary or mandated by law, involving participation by insurers in the equitable apportionment 4 5 among them of insurance that may be afforded applicants who 6 are unable to obtain insurance through ordinary methods; "reverse competition" means a marketplace 7 Ε. situation where the placement of a line, kind or class of 8 insurance with insurers is determined primarily or 9 exclusively by parties other than the policyholders; 10 "supplementary rate information" includes any F. 11 manual or plan of rates, classification, rating schedule, 12 minimum premium, policy fee, rating rule, underwriting rule 13 and any other information needed to determine the applicable 14 15 rate in effect or to be in effect; and "supporting information" means: 16 G. the experience and judgment of the filer 17 (1) and the experience or data of other insurers or advisory 18 organizations relied upon by the filer; 19 20 (2) the interpretation of any other data relied upon by the filer; 21 (3) descriptions of methods used in making 22 the rates; and 23 any other information required by the 24 (4) superintendent to be filed." 25

Section 4. A new section of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law is enacted to read:

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3 "COMPETITIVE MARKET.--A competitive market is presumed to exist unless the superintendent, after notice and hearing, 4 determines that a reasonable degree of competition does not 5 6 exist within a market and issues a ruling to that effect. The ruling shall expire three years after issue unless 7 rescinded earlier by the superintendent or unless the 8 superintendent renews the ruling after a hearing and a 9 10 finding as to the continued lack of a reasonable degree of 11 competition. Any ruling that finds that competition does not exist shall identify the factors that cause the market not to 12 be competitive and may also include a plan for enhancing 13 competition. The superintendent shall monitor the degree and 14 15 continued existence of competition in New Mexico on an 16 ongoing basis. An interested party may petition the superintendent to initiate a hearing to examine whether a 17 particular market is competitive or whether a particular 18 market is no longer noncompetitive." 19

20 Section 5. A new section of the Insurance Rate21 Regulation Law is enacted to read:

22 "REVERSE COMPETITIVE MARKET.--A reverse competitive
23 market for a line, kind or class of insurance is presumed to
24 exist wherever the placement of a line, kind or class of
25 insurance with insurers is determined primarily or SB 483

exclusively by parties other than the policyholders. The superintendent may, by notice and hearing, establish rules for determining the specific lines, kinds or classes of insurance that, for the purposes of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, are reversely competitive."

Section 6. A new section of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law is enacted to read:

"CONSUMER INFORMATION .--

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The superintendent shall use, develop or cause 9 Α. 10 to be developed a consumer information system that will provide and disseminate price and other relevant information 11 on a readily available basis to purchasers of homeowners, 12 private passenger non-fleet automobile or property insurance 13 for personal, family or household needs as well as for any 14 15 other types of personal or commercial insurance designated by the superintendent. To the extent deemed necessary and 16 appropriate by the superintendent, insurers, advisory 17 organizations and other persons or organizations involved in 18 conducting the business of insurance in New Mexico, to which 19 20 this section applies, shall cooperate in the development and utilization of a consumer information system. 21

B. An insurer writing homeowners insurance or
private passenger non-fleet automobile insurance in New
Mexico shall, upon renewal or upon the transfer of a policy
to another insurer under the same ownership or management as SB 483

the transferring insurer, provide its policyholders with written notification of their right to obtain from the insurer a detailed written explanation of the reasons why their policy premium has changed or is about to change."

Section 7. A new section of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law is enacted to read:

"UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES.--

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Α. The superintendent may direct an insurer 8 writing homeowners insurance, private passenger non-fleet 9 10 automobile insurance or other lines, kinds or classes of noncommercial insurance in New Mexico to file with the 11 superintendent underwriting guidelines that determine the 12 acceptance of applicants and tiering guidelines that 13 determine the placement of applicants and insureds into 14 15 rating tiers, regardless of whether such tiers exist within the insurer or within a group of insurers under common 16 ownership or management. 17

B. The superintendent, after notice and hearing,
may order an insurer to cease using underwriting or tiering
guidelines that are unfairly discriminatory or that fail to
place applicants and insureds into tiers in a clear,
objective, risk-based and mutually exclusive manner.

C. Filings made pursuant to this section shall be
considered confidential trade secrets under the Uniform Trade
Secrets Act."

1 Section 8. Section 59A-17-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, 2 Chapter 127, Section 302) is amended to read: 3 "59A-17-6. RATE STANDARDS.--A. Rates shall not be excessive, inadequate or 4 5 unfairly discriminatory, nor shall an insurer charge any rate that, if continued, will have or tend to have the effect of 6 destroying competition or creating a monopoly. 7 Β. In a competitive market, rates are presumed not 8 to be excessive. 9 C. In a noncompetitive market, rates are excessive 10 if they are likely to produce a profit that is unreasonably 11 high in relation to the riskiness of the line, kind or class 12 of business, or if expenses are unreasonably high in relation 13 to the services rendered. 14 15 D. Rates are inadequate if they are clearly 16 insufficient, together with the investment income attributable to them, to sustain projected losses and 17 expenses in the line, kind or class of business to which they 18 apply. 19 20 Ε. There is unfair discrimination if one rate is unfairly discriminatory in relation to another in the same 21 line, kind or class if it clearly fails to reflect equitably 22 the differences in expected losses and expenses. Rates are 23 not unfairly discriminatory because different premiums result 24 for policyholders with like loss exposures but different 25 SB 483

expense factors, or like expense factors but different loss exposures, so long as the rates reflect the differences with reasonable accuracy. Rates are not unfairly discriminatory if they are averaged broadly among persons insured under a group, franchise or blanket policy or a mass marketing plan."

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Section 9. Section 59A-17-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 303) is amended to read:

"59A-17-7. RATING METHODS.--In determining whether rates comply with the rate standards, the following criteria shall be applied:

due consideration shall be given to past and 11 Α. prospective loss and expense experience within and without 12 this state, to catastrophic hazards and contingencies, to 13 trends within and without this state, to loadings for 14 15 leveling premium rates over time or for dividends or savings to be allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders, 16 members or subscribers and to all other relevant factors, 17 including the judgment of technical personnel; 18

B. risks may be classified in any reasonable way for the establishment of rates and minimum premiums, except that classifications may not be based on race, color, creed or national origin;

C. the expense provisions included in the rates to
be used by an insurer may reflect the operating methods of
the insurer and, so far as it is credible, its own expense

## experience; and

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D. the rates may contain an allowance permitting a profit that is not unreasonable in relation to the riskiness of the line, kind or class of business. Profit shall include investment income attributable to such rates."

Section 10. Section 59A-17-7.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1987, Chapter 80, Section 1) is amended to read:

"59A-17-7.1. MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY--NOT-AT-FAULT ACCIDENTS.--

A. The rates of a motor vehicle liability insurer shall not provide for an increase in the premium if based upon an accident in which the insured is not at fault in any manner as determined by either the accident report or the insurer. If the insurer determines that its insured is at fault contrary to the specific finding of an accident report that the insured is not at fault, the insurer shall reach its conclusion only after an investigation.

B. A motor vehicle liability insurer shall not 18 cancel, or use as a basis for nonrenewal, an insurance policy 19 20 if such cancellation or nonrenewal is based upon an accident in which the insured is not at fault in any manner as 21 determined by either the accident report or the insurer. Ιf 22 the insurer determines that its insured is at fault contrary 23 to the specific finding of an accident report that the 24 insured is not at fault, the insurer shall reach its 25

1 conclusion only after an investigation.

C. As used in this section, "motor vehicle liability insurer" means an insurer authorized to transact in this state the business of automobile and motor vehicle bodily injury, property damage liability and physical damage insurance.

D. This section shall not apply if other factors exist, exclusive of the accident in which the insured is not at fault, that allow for a premium increase, cancellation or nonrenewal of an insurance policy under the Insurance Code or rules pursuant to the Insurance Code."

Section 11. Section 59A-17-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 304, as amended) is amended to read:

15 "59A-17-8. MAKING OF RATES--WORKERS' COMPENSATION--RATE
 16 CALCULATIONS--RATE CLASSIFICATIONS.--

A. A workers' compensation insurer shall adhere to
a uniform classification system and uniform experience rating
system filed with the superintendent by an advisory
organization designated by the superintendent.

B. A workers' compensation insurer shall report
its experience in accordance with the statistical plans and
other reporting requirements in use by the advisory
organization designated by the superintendent.

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C. Workers' compensation premium rates shall be SB 483

1 equalized and calculated on a basis that does not 2 discriminate against or penalize employers who pay higher 3 wages than other employers to workers in the same job classification. The legislature finds that calculating 4 5 workers' compensation premium rates strictly on the basis of an employer's wages paid discriminates against and penalizes 6 higher-paying employers. The legislature accordingly directs 7 8 that the superintendent shall: 9 investigate alternatives to the current (1) method of computing workers' compensation premiums, including 10 11 but not limited to: split classification; 12 (a) 13 (b) payroll cap; hours worked; and (c) 14 15 (d) premium credits; immediately conduct hearings on the 16 (2) issue, including consideration of other alternatives; and 17 adopt regulations, to become effective (3) 18 no later than April 1, 1991, to equalize the workers' 19 20 compensation premium rates employers must pay for workers who perform the same job. 21 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to 22 prohibit the use of experience rating or scheduled credits. 23 A workers' compensation insurer may develop 24 D. 25 subclassifications of the uniform classification system upon

which rates may be made. Such subclassifications and their filing shall be subject to all applicable provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law. Data produced from such subclassifications shall be reported in accordance with the statistical plans, uniform classification system and experience rating system in use by the advisory organization designated by the superintendent.

8 Ε. Classification assignments may be changed 9 within sixty days of the effective date or renewal date of 10 the policy, provided the employer is given reasonable prior 11 notice of the proposed change in order to object and provided further that the change is based upon an appropriate audit or 12 investigation. The same provisions apply to initial 13 classification assignments for new operations added by the 14 15 employer so that they may be changed within sixty days of the date the classification assignments are initially 16 established. No subsequent changes shall be made unless the 17 insurer proves, after conducting an audit or investigation, 18 that: 19

20 (1) there has been a substantial change in 21 the nature of the work performed; or

(2) the initial assignment was in error due
to withheld or inaccurate material information provided by
the employer.

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F. A workers' compensation insurer may develop SB 483

rating plans that identify loss experience as a factor to be used. The rating plans and their filing shall be subject to all applicable provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law.

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5 G. The superintendent shall disapprove 6 subclassifications, rating plans or other variations from supplementary rate information filed by a workers' 7 8 compensation insurer if the insurer fails to demonstrate that 9 the data produced can be reported consistent with the uniform classification system and experience rating system and in 10 such a fashion so as to allow for the application of 11 experience rating filed by the advisory organization 12 designated by the superintendent." 13

Section 12. Section 59A-17-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 15 1984, Chapter 127, Section 305, as amended) is amended to 16 read:

"59A-17-9. FILING OF RATES.--

A. In regard to filings in competitive markets:

19 (1) for purposes of this section, reverse 20 competitive markets and residual markets are not competitive 21 markets;

(2) for filings by insurers:

(a) an insurer shall file with the
superintendent rates and supplementary rate information prior
to their use in New Mexico;

1 (b) rates to be used in a competitive 2 market for commercial insurance other than workers' 3 compensation and medical professional liability need not be 4 filed; and

5 (c) insurers that wish to use workers' 6 compensation subclassifications, rating plans, loss costs or other supplementary rate information that differs from items 7 8 filed by the advisory organization designated by the 9 superintendent shall file with the superintendent relevant 10 subclassifications, rating plans, rates, loss costs, other 11 supplementary rate information and supporting information in accordance with the requirements and provisions of Subsection 12 B of this section; and 13

(a) with the exception of workers'
compensation filings, an advisory organization shall file
with the superintendent rates, supplementary rate information
and supporting information prior to their use in New Mexico;
and

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for filings by advisory organizations:

(b) regarding workers' compensation
filings, the advisory organization designated by the
superintendent shall file with the superintendent rates,
supplementary rate information and supporting information in
accordance with the requirements and provisions of Subsection
B of this section.

In regard to filings in noncompetitive, reverse Β. 2 competitive and residual markets:

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an insurer or advisory organization (1) shall file with the superintendent rates, supplementary rate information and supporting information for noncompetitive, reverse competitive and residual markets at least thirty days before the proposed effective date;

8 (2) the superintendent may give written or electronic notice, within thirty days of receipt of the 9 10 filing, that the superintendent needs additional time, not to exceed thirty days from the date of such notice, to consider 11 the filing; 12

(3) upon written or electronic application 13 of the insurer or advisory organization, the superintendent 14 15 may authorize rates to be effective before the expiration of the waiting period or an extension of the waiting period; 16

a filing shall be deemed to meet the 17 (4) requirements of this section and to become effective unless 18 disapproved pursuant to Section 59A-17-13 NMSA 1978 by the 19 20 superintendent before the expiration of the waiting period or an extension of the waiting period; 21

the operation of the deemer provision 22 (5) shall be suspended during a period of not more than sixty 23 days upon written or electronic notice to the insurer or 24 advisory organization that made the filing that additional 25

1 information is needed to complete the review of the filing. 2 The suspension of the deemer provision may occur only once 3 for a filing. Failure of the insurer or advisory organization to provide the requested information within sixty days shall 4 5 be deemed a request to withdraw the filing from further 6 consideration. The superintendent shall either approve or disapprove the filing within thirty days of receipt of the 7 8 requested additional information. Failure of the 9 superintendent to act within the thirty-day period shall 10 result in the filing being deemed to meet the requirements of 11 the Insurance Rate Regulation Law. Neither the insurer nor the superintendent may waive the timeliness requirements of 12 the deemer provisions of this section; and 13

14 (6) residual market mechanisms or advisory15 organizations may file residual market rates.

In regard to reference filings; an insurer may 16 C. file its rates either by filing its final rates or by filing 17 a multiplier and, if applicable, an expense constant 18 adjustment to be applied to prospective loss costs that have 19 20 been filed by an advisory organization on behalf of the insurer as permitted by Section 59A-17-17 NMSA 1978. Such 21 reference filings shall be made prior to their use or by 22 other methods the superintendent may allow by rule. An 23 insurer that chooses to adopt the prospective loss costs or 24 rates that have been filed by an advisory organization on its SB 483 25 Page 16 behalf for a competitive commercial line other than workers' compensation or medical professional liability need not file."

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Section 13. Section 59A-17-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 307, as amended) is amended to read:

"59A-17-11. FILINGS OPEN TO INSPECTION .-- A filing and 7 8 supporting information filed under Sections 59A-17-9 and 9 59A-17-10 NMSA 1978 shall, as soon as filed, be open to public inspection at a reasonable time. A copy of a filing 10 11 and supporting information may be obtained by a person on request to the superintendent and payment of a reasonable 12 charge. If the insurer or advisory organization believes 13 that information contained in the filing contains material 14 15 that it considers to be a trade secret, it shall include that information in a separate section of the filing and include a 16 request for the superintendent to consider whether that 17 information should be kept confidential." 18

Section 14. Section 59A-17-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 308) is amended to read:

"59A-17-12. INSURER MUST ADHERE TO RATES--CONSENT TO RATE.--

A. No insurer shall make or issue a contract or
policy of insurance except in accordance with filings or
rates that are lawfully in effect for the insurer as provided SB 483

in the Insurance Rate Regulation Law.

organization that adopted the rate.

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Upon written application of the insured stating 2 Β. 3 the underlying reasons that is filed with and approved by the superintendent, a rate in excess of or below that otherwise 4 5 applicable may be used as to a specific risk." Section 15. Section 59A-17-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 6 1984, Chapter 127, Section 309, as amended) is amended to 7 read: 8 "59A-17-13. GROUNDS AND PROCEDURES FOR DISAPPROVAL OF 9 10 RATES.--The superintendent shall disapprove a rate for 11 Α. use in a competitive market if the superintendent finds that 12 the rate is inadequate or unfairly discriminatory under the 13 rate standards set forth in Section 59A-17-6 NMSA 1978. 14 The 15 superintendent shall disapprove a rate for use in a noncompetitive, reverse competitive or residual market if the 16 superintendent finds that the rate is excessive, inadequate 17 or unfairly discriminatory under the rate standards set forth 18 in Section 59A-17-6 NMSA 1978. 19 20 Β. The superintendent may at any time disapprove a filing submitted under the "file and use" provisions of 21 Subsection A of Section 59A-17-9 NMSA 1978 after giving 22 notice of hearing pursuant to the provisions of Subsection A 23 of Section 59A-4-16 NMSA 1978 to every insurer and advisory 24

C. The superintendent may disapprove a filing submitted under the "prior approval" provisions of Subsection B of Section 59A-17-9 NMSA 1978:

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(1) without a hearing prior to the expiration of the waiting period or an extension of the waiting period. An insurer or advisory organization whose rates are disapproved under this subsection may request a hearing before the superintendent by filing a written request within thirty days of the date of the disapproval notice; or

(2) at any time after the expiration of the
waiting period or an extension of the waiting period, after
giving notice of hearing pursuant to the provisions of
Subsection A of Section 59A-4-16 NMSA 1978 to every insurer
and advisory organization that adopted the rate.

D. The superintendent's notice or order of disapproval shall specify the respects in which the rate fails to meet the standards set forth in Section 59A-17-6 NMSA 1978. The notice or order shall state an effective date no sooner than thirty business days after the date of the notice or order when the insurer shall discontinue the use of the rate. The notice or order shall not affect any policy made before the effective date of the notice or order."

Section 16. A new section of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law is enacted to read:

"LARGE COMMERCIAL POLICYHOLDERS.--

1 The superintendent may, by rule, establish a Α. 2 class of large commercial policyholders, to be known as 3 exempt commercial policyholders, that shall be exempt from the rate and form requirements of Chapter 59A, Articles 17 4 5 and 18 NMSA 1978, except for form provisions relating to 6 workers' compensation mandatory coverage provisions. In the promulgation of this rule, the 7 Β. 8 superintendent shall consider the following factors in 9 establishing an exempt commercial policyholder class: 10 (1)the characteristics of insureds that are likely to study and understand the details of their business 11 risks, insurance coverages and exclusions; 12 the characteristics of insureds that are 13 (2)likely to avail themselves of regular price comparisons 14 15 between competing insurers and are likely to study and understand the differences and details of pricing proposals 16 that they receive; 17 the characteristics of insureds that are (3) 18 likely to require individually written policies, as 19 contrasted to insureds that can customarily have their 20 coverage needs met through a compilation of forms with 21 applicability to other insureds as well; 22 the characteristics of insureds for (4) 23 which filed rates and rating plans are less likely to provide 24 the lowest premiums otherwise consistent with the provisions 25 SB 483

of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law;

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(5) the favorable or adverse experiences with exemptions from regulatory requirements, especially the experience in New Mexico;

(6) the extent to which commercial insureds primarily located in another jurisdiction are subject to similar exemptions or waivers in that jurisdiction; and

(7) any other relevant factors.

C. The superintendent may, by rule, waive some or all of the diligent search requirements related to placement of risks in the approved surplus lines market for some or all of the exempt commercial policyholders."

Section 17. Section 59A-17-13.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993, Chapter 103, Section 1) is amended to read:

"59A-17-13.1. DISCOUNTS ON HOMEOWNERS' POLICIES FOR 15 BURGLARY PROTECTIONS. -- Any insurer licensed to write 16 homeowner's insurance, as defined by the superintendent, 17 within the state shall provide a minimum premium discount of 18 ten percent for houses with electronic alarm systems designed 19 20 to prevent unauthorized entry into the house. The insurer shall also provide a minimum premium discount of five percent 21 for houses with wrought iron bars covering all the doors and 22 windows of the house. These discounts shall apply to 23 comprehensive coverage and shall be part of the insurer's 24 rate filing. Some or all of the premium discounts required 25 SB 483

by this section may be omitted upon demonstration to the superintendent in an insurer's rate filing that the discounts are duplicative of other discounts provided by the insurer."

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Section 18. Section 59A-17-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 312, as amended) is amended to read:

"59A-17-16. REQUIREMENT FOR SUPPORTING INFORMATION .--

A. By rule, the superintendent may require the filing of supporting data as to any or all kinds or lines of insurance or subdivisions thereof or classes of risks or combinations thereof as the superintendent deems necessary for the proper functioning of the rate monitoring and regulating process. The supporting data shall include:

(1) the experience and judgment of the filer
and, to the extent it wishes or the superintendent requires,
of other insurers or advisory organizations;

17 (2) its interpretation of any statistical 18 data relied upon;

19 (3) descriptions of the actuarial and 20 statistical methods employed in setting the rates; and

21 (4) any other relevant matters required by 22 the superintendent.

B. Whenever a filing is not accompanied by the
information as the superintendent has required under
Subsection A of this section, the superintendent may inform SB 483

зь 403 Page 22 the insurer and the filing shall be deemed to be made when the information is furnished."

Section 19. Section 59A-17-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 313, as amended) is amended to read:

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"59A-17-17. USE OF ADVISORY ORGANIZATION FILINGS.--

A. An insurer may itself establish rates and supplementary rate information for a market segment based on the factors set forth in Section 59A-17-7 NMSA 1978 or it may in its rate filing incorporate by reference loss costs and other supplementary rate information prepared by an advisory organization, with modification for its own loss experience as the credibility of that experience allows.

B. Nothing in the Insurance Rate Regulation Law shall be construed as requiring an insurer to become a member of or subscriber to any advisory organization.

C. The superintendent may adopt rules establishing standards and administrative procedures to carry out the provisions of this section."

Section 20. Section 59A-17-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 314) is amended to read:

"59A-17-18. ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS--LICENSE REQUIRED--OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE SERVICE.--

A. No advisory organization shall provide a
service relating to the statistical collection or the rates SB 483

1 of an insurance subject to the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, 2 and no insurer shall use the services of the organization for 3 such purposes, unless the organization has obtained a license as required by Section 59A-17-19 NMSA 1978. 4 5 B. No advisory organization shall refuse to supply a service for which it is licensed in this state to an 6 authorized insurer offering to pay the fair and usual 7 compensation for the services." 8 Section 21. Section 59A-17-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 9 1984, Chapter 127, Section 315) is amended to read: 10 "59A-17-19. ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS--LICENSING.--11 A. A person, whether domiciled within or outside 12 this state, may apply to the superintendent for license as an 13 advisory organization for the kinds of insurance or 14 15 subdivisions thereof as are specified in its application. The application shall include: 16 a copy of its constitution, charter, 17 (1) articles of organization, agreement, association or 18 incorporation and a copy of its bylaws, plan of operation and 19 20 other rules governing conduct of its business; (2)a list of its members and subscribers; 21 (3) the name and address of one or more 22 residents of this state upon whom notices, process affecting 23 it or orders of the superintendent may be served; 24 (4) a statement showing its technical SB 483 25 Page 24 qualifications for acting in the capacity for which it seeks a license;

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(5) payment of the license application fee in an amount specified in Section 59A-6-1 NMSA 1978; and

(6) any other relevant information and documents that the superintendent may require.

Every advisory organization that has applied 7 Β. 8 for a license shall promptly notify the superintendent in 9 writing of every material change in the facts or in the 10 documents on which its application was based, or of change in name, address of its process agent under Paragraph (3) of 11 Subsection A of this section. No amendment to a document 12 referred to in Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of this section 13 shall be effective until not less than thirty days after the 14 15 amendment is filed with the superintendent.

If the superintendent finds that the applicant 16 C. and the individuals through whom it acts are competent, 17 trustworthy and technically qualified to provide the services 18 proposed, and that all requirements of law are met, the 19 20 superintendent shall within sixty days after completion of the application issue a license to the applicant specifying 21 the authorized activity; otherwise, the superintendent shall 22 refuse to issue the license and shall promptly notify the 23 applicant, specifying the grounds for refusal. 24 The superintendent shall not issue a license if the proposed 25

activity would tend to create a monopoly or lessen or destroy price competition.

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D. Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall remain in effect until the licensee withdraws from the state or until the license is suspended or revoked, subject to annual continuation on May 1 of each year by payment of the continuation fee specified in Section 59A-6-1 NMSA 1978."

Section 22. Section 59A-17-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 316) is amended to read:

"59A-17-20. SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OF LICENSE.--The superintendent shall promptly revoke the license of an advisory organization if it ceases business or withdraws from this state, and the superintendent may suspend or revoke the license if the superintendent finds after a hearing that:

A. the organization no longer meets the qualifications for licensing; or

B. the organization has failed to file amended documents as required under Section 59A-17-19 NMSA 1978, or has violated or failed to comply with any other material requirement of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law or any other law."

Section 23. Section 59A-17-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 317) is amended to read:

"59A-17-21. CONDUCT OF ADVISORY ORGANIZATION.--

A. An advisory organization shall furnish its

services without discrimination to its members and 2 subscribers.

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An advisory organization shall not adopt any Β. rule, the effect of which would be to prohibit or regulate payment of dividends, savings or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders, members or subscribers."

Section 24. Section 59A-17-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 319) is amended to read:

"59A-17-23. ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS--APPEAL BY 10 MINORITY .-- A member of or subscriber to an advisory 11 organization may appeal to the superintendent from the action 12 or decision of the advisory organization in approving or 13 rejecting a proposed change in or addition to the filings of 14 15 the advisory organization and the superintendent shall, after a hearing, issue an order approving the action or decision of 16 the advisory organization or directing it to give further 17 consideration to the proposal; or, if the appeal is from the 18 action or decision of the advisory organization in rejecting 19 20 a proposed addition to its filings, the superintendent may, in the event the superintendent finds that the action or 21 decision was unreasonable, issue an order directing the 22 advisory organization to make an addition to its filings, on 23 behalf of its members and subscribers, in a manner consistent 24 with the superintendent's findings, within a reasonable time 25

after the issuance of the order."

Section 25. Section 59A-17-25 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 320, as amended) is amended to read:

"59A-17-25. JOINT UNDERWRITING, JOINT REINSURANCE POOL AND RESIDUAL MARKET MECHANISMS.--

A. A group, association or other organization of
insurers that engages in joint underwriting, joint
reinsurance pools or residual market mechanisms through the
group, association or organization or by standing agreement
among the members, shall file with the superintendent:

(1) a copy of its constitution, its articles of incorporation, agreement or association and its bylaws and rules governing its activities, all duly certified by the custodian of the originals;

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(2) a list of its members; and

17 (3) the name and address of a resident of 18 this state upon whom notices or orders of the superintendent 19 or process affecting the group, association or organization 20 may be served.

B. Every such group, association or other
organization shall notify the superintendent promptly in
writing of changes in its constitution, its articles of
incorporation, agreement or association, its bylaws and rules
governing conduct of its business, its list of members or the SB 483

name and address of its process agent referred to in Paragraph (3) of Subsection A of this section.

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C. Every such group, association or organization shall be subject to regulation as herein provided, subject, however, as to joint underwriting to applicable provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, and as to joint reinsurance to Sections 59A-17-13, 59A-17-32, 59A-17-34 and 59A-17-35 NMSA 1978.

No group, association or organization shall 9 D. 10 engage in an unfair or unreasonable practice with respect to its activities. If, after a hearing, the superintendent 11 finds that an activity or practice of a group, association or 12 organization is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise 13 inconsistent with the provisions of the Insurance Rate 14 15 Regulation Law, the superintendent may issue an order 16 specifying the respects in which the activity or practice is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the 17 provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law and requiring 18 discontinuance of the activity or practice." 19

20 Section 26. Section 59A-17-26 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
21 1984, Chapter 127, Section 321) is amended to read:

"59A-17-26. BINDING AGREEMENTS BY INSURERS.--No insurer shall assume an obligation to a person other than a policyholder or other insurers that with it are under common control or management or are members of a joint underwriting SB 483

organization subject to the provisions of Section 59A-17-25 NMSA 1978, to use or adhere to certain rates or rules, and no other person shall impose a penalty or other adverse consequence for failure of an insurer to adhere to certain rates or rules except as to action by the superintendent in enforcement of Section 59A-17-12 NMSA 1978."

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Section 27. Section 59A-17-27 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 322) is amended to read:

"59A-17-27. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.--9 Cooperation among advisory organizations or among 10 organizations and insurers in rate making or in other matters 11 within the scope of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law is 12 hereby authorized, provided the filings resulting from the 13 cooperation are subject to provisions of the Insurance Rate 14 15 Regulation Law applicable to filings generally. The 16 superintendent may review the cooperative activities and practices and if, after a hearing, the superintendent finds 17 that the activity or practice is unfair or unreasonable or 18 otherwise inconsistent with the Insurance Rate Regulation 19 20 Law, the superintendent may issue an order specifying the respects in which the activity or practice is unreasonable or 21 otherwise inconsistent with the Insurance Rate Regulation Law 22 and requiring discontinuance of the activity or practice." 23

Section 28. Section 59A-17-28 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 323) is amended to read:

1 "59A-17-28. RECORDING, REPORTING OF EXPERIENCE.--The 2 superintendent shall promulgate or approve reasonable rules, 3 including rules providing statistical plans, for use by all insurers in the recording and reporting of loss and expense 4 5 experience, so that the experience of an insurer may be made 6 available to the superintendent at least annually in such form and detail as may be necessary to aid the superintendent 7 8 in determining whether rating systems comply with applicable rate standards and requirements. In promulgating the rules 9 10 and plans the superintendent shall give due consideration to 11 the rating systems on file with the superintendent and, so that the rules and plans may be as uniform as practicable 12 among the several states, to the rules and form of plans used 13 for rating systems in other states. No insurer shall be 14 15 required to record or report its experience on a classification basis inconsistent with its own rating system. 16 The superintendent may designate one or more advisory 17 organizations to assist the superintendent in gathering that 18 experience and making compilations of that experience, which 19 20 shall be made available to insurers, advisory organizations and the public." 21

Section 29. Section 59A-17-29 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 324) is amended to read:

"59A-17-29. EXCHANGE OF DATA, CONSULTATION AUTHORIZED.--

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A. The superintendent may promulgate reasonable rules and plans for interchange among insurers, advisory organizations and others, of data necessary for application of rating plans.

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B. For furtherance of uniformity in administration of rate regulatory laws, the superintendent and every insurer and advisory organization may exchange information and experience data with insurance regulatory officials, insurers and advisory organizations in this and other states and may consult with them as to rate making and the application of rating systems."

Section 30. Section 59A-17-30 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 325) is amended to read:

"59A-17-30. INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED INSUREDS--HEARINGS AND APPEALS OF INSUREDS.--

A. Every advisory organization and every insurer that makes its own rates shall, within time frames promulgated by the superintendent or, in the absence of time frames, within a reasonable time after receiving written request, furnish to an insured affected by a rate made by it, or to the authorized representative of the insured, all pertinent information as to the rate.

B. Every advisory organization and every insurer
that makes its own rates shall provide within this state
reasonable means whereby a person aggrieved by the

1 application of its rating system may be heard, in person or 2 by the person's authorized representative, on the person's 3 written request to review the manner in which the rating system has been applied in connection with the insurance 4 5 afforded the person. If the advisory organization or insurer 6 fails to grant or reject the request within thirty days after it is made, the applicant may proceed in the same manner as 7 if the application had been rejected. A party affected by 8 the action of the rate service organization or the insurer on 9 10 the request may, within thirty days after written notice of the action, appeal to the superintendent, who, after a 11 hearing, may affirm or reverse the action. If, after the 12 hearing, it is determined that the rates charged by an 13 insurer are in excess of the otherwise appropriate rate, the 14 15 overcharge shall be refunded to the insured."

Section 31. Section 59A-17-31 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 326) is amended to read:

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"59A-17-31. FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION.--No person shall willfully withhold information from, or knowingly give false or misleading information to, the superintendent or statistical agency designated by the superintendent or advisory organization or insurer that will affect rates or rating plans under the Insurance Rate Regulation Law. Violation of this section shall be subject to the penalties provided under Section 59A-1-18 NMSA 1978."

Section 32. Section 59A-17-32 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 327) is amended to read:

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"59A-17-32. EXAMINATION OF ADVISORY AND JOINT UNDERWRITING ORGANIZATIONS, JOINT REINSURANCE POOLS AND RESIDUAL MARKET MECHANISMS.--

To be informed about any matter related to 6 Α. enforcement of provisions of the Insurance Code, the 7 superintendent may examine the affairs and condition of any 8 advisory or joint underwriting organization, joint 9 10 reinsurance pool or residual market mechanism. The superintendent shall examine every advisory organization and 11 conduct the examinations at intervals established by rules 12 promulgated by the superintendent. 13

B. In lieu of all or part of an examination, or in 14 15 addition to an examination, the superintendent may order an independent audit by certified public accountants or 16 actuarial evaluation by actuaries approved by the 17 superintendent, or may accept the report of an audit already 18 made by certified public accountants or actuarial evaluation 19 20 by actuaries approved by the superintendent, or the report of an examination made by the insurance supervisory official of 21 another state. 22

C. Conduct of the examination, examiners and other
personnel used by the superintendent in making the
examinations, payment of costs of the examination by the

examinee, examination report and review and adoption and the examination in general shall be subject to the applicable provisions of Chapter 59A, Article 4 NMSA 1978."

Section 33. Section 59A-17-33 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 328) is amended to read:

"59A-17-33. ENFORCEMENT--CEASE AND DESIST, INJUNCTIONS--PENALTIES.--

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Α. The superintendent shall enforce compliance 8 with the provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law. 9 10 Whenever the superintendent believes that there is a 11 violation of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law and that such violation is continuing, the superintendent shall serve upon 12 the advisory, joint underwriting, joint reinsurance pool, 13 residual market mechanism or insurer or other person 14 15 violating, as the case may be, notice of a hearing before the superintendent to be held not less than twenty days after 16 service of the notice, and requiring the organization or 17 person to show cause why the superintendent should not order 18 the organization or person to cease and desist from the 19 20 violation.

B. The superintendent, through the attorney
general, may maintain an action to enjoin a continuing
violation of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law.

C. After hearing, the superintendent may suspend the license of an advisory organization or insurer that fails SB 483

to comply with the superintendent's order within the time limited by the order or an extension of time that the superintendent may grant. The suspension shall not become effective until the time prescribed for an appeal has expired, or if an appeal has been taken, until the order has been affirmed; otherwise, the superintendent may determine when the suspension shall become effective, and the suspension shall remain in effect for the period fixed unless the superintendent modifies or rescinds the suspension, or until the order on which suspension is based is modified, rescinded or reversed.

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If the superintendent finds that a person has 12 D. violated any provision of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, 13 the superintendent may impose a penalty of not more than ten 14 15 thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each violation; but if the superintendent finds the violation to be willful, the 16 superintendent may impose a penalty of not more than 17 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each violation. 18 Such penalties may be in addition to any other penalty 19 20 provided by law, and, if not paid voluntarily by the violator, may be collected through civil action in the 21 district court of Santa Fe county in the name of the state of 22 New Mexico on the relation of the insurance board. 23

E. For the purposes of this section, an insurer using a rate for which the insurer has failed to file the

rate, supplementary rate information or supporting information, if Section 59A-17-9 NMSA 1978 requires the materials to be filed, shall have committed a separate violation for each day the failure continues."

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Section 34. Section 59A-17-35 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 330, as amended by Laws 1999, Chapter 265, Section 67 and also by Laws 1999, Chapter 289, Section 26) is amended to read:

9 "59A-17-35. APPEALS FROM COMMISSION.--Any order made by
10 the commission pursuant to Section 59A-17-34 NMSA 1978 shall
11 be subject to review by appeal to the district court pursuant
12 to the provisions of Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978. Upon
13 institution of the appeal and for good cause shown upon
14 motion and hearing, the court may, in the following cases,
15 stay operation of the commission's order:

A. where, pursuant to the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, an advisory organization has been refused a license or an insurer has been refused a certificate of authority or had its license or certificate of authority suspended, it may, with leave of court, be allowed to continue to engage in business, subject to the provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, pending final disposition of its application for review; or

B. where any order of the commission shall provide
for, or sustain the superintendent's order for, a change in a SB 483 Page 37

1 rate or rating system that results in an increase or decrease 2 in rates, an insurer affected may, with leave of court 3 pending final disposition of the proceedings in the district court, continue to charge rates that existed prior to the 4 5 order, on condition that the difference in the rates be 6 deposited in a special escrow or trust account with a reputable financial institution by the insurer affected, to 7 8 be held in trust by the insurer and to be retained by the insurer or paid to the holders of policies issued after the 9 10 order of the court, as the court may determine." Section 35. Section 59A-17-36 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 11 1989, Chapter 145, Section 2) is amended to read: 12 "59A-17-36. RATE FILING--FAILURE TO SUBMIT DATA--13 PENALTY.--14 15 An insurer or advisory organization that makes a Α. 16 rate filing under the Insurance Rate Regulation Law and fails, without reasonable cause, to provide the data 17 requested by the superintendent within thirty working days 18 from the date of the request shall be subject to an 19

administrative penalty as provided in Section 59A-1-18 NMSA 1978.

B. The superintendent may, for good cause shown,
grant an extension of the thirty-day time period provided for
in Subsection A of this section.

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C. The insurer or advisory organization may, within SB 483

ten days after entry of the order, request a hearing before the superintendent as provided in Section 59A-17-34 NMSA 1978."

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Section 36. Section 59A-18-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 342, as amended) is amended to read:

"59A-18-12. FILING OF FORMS AND CLASSIFICATIONS--REVIEW OF EFFECT UPON INSURED.--

An insurance policy or annuity contract shall 9 Α. not be delivered or issued for delivery in this state, nor 10 shall an assumption certificate, endorsement, rider or 11 application that becomes a part of a policy be used, until a 12 copy of the form and the classification of risks pertaining 13 to the policy have been filed with the superintendent. A 14 15 filing shall be made at least sixty days before its proposed effective date. A filing made pursuant to this section shall 16 not become effective nor shall it be used until approved by 17 the superintendent pursuant to Section 59A-18-14 NMSA 1978, 18 at which time it may be used. A filing for any kind of 19 20 insurance other than life insurance or health insurance, as defined in the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, shall be deemed 21 to meet the requirements of Chapter 59A, Article 18 NMSA 1978 22 to become effective unless disapproved pursuant to Section 23 59A-18-14 NMSA 1978 by the superintendent before the 24 expiration of the waiting period or an extension of the 25

1 waiting period. Provided, that:

2 (1) this subsection shall not apply as to 3 policies, contracts, endorsements or riders of unique and special character not for general use or offering but 4 5 designed and used solely as to a particular insured or risk; (2) if the superintendent has exempted a person 6 or a class of persons or a market segment from a part or all 7 of the provisions of the Insurance Rate Regulation Law 8 pursuant to Subsection C of Section 59A-17-2 NMSA 1978, the 9 10 superintendent also may exempt by rule that person, class of persons or market segment from a part or all of the 11 provisions of this subsection; 12 an insurer subject to the Insurance Rate 13 (3) Regulation Law may authorize an advisory organization to file 14 15

policy forms, endorsements and other contract language and related attachment rules on its behalf. Reference filings shall be made prior to their use or by other methods the superintendent may allow by rule; and

19 (4) the superintendent may, by rule, exempt 20 various lines and kinds of commercial insurance, as defined 21 in the Insurance Rate Regulation Law, from some or all of the 22 requirements of this subsection.

B. A workers' compensation insurance policy
covering a risk arising from the employment of a worker
performing work for an employer in New Mexico when that SB 483

SB 485 Page 40 employer is not domiciled in New Mexico shall not be issued or become effective, nor shall any endorsement or rider covering such a risk be issued or become effective, until a copy of the form and the classification of risks pertaining thereto have been filed with the superintendent.

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C. An insured may in writing request the insurer to 6 review the manner in which its filing has been applied as to 7 insurance afforded the insured. If the insurer fails to make 8 a review and grant appropriate relief within thirty days 9 after the request is received, the insured may file a written 10 11 complaint and request for a hearing with the superintendent, stating grounds relied upon. If the complaint charges a 12 violation of the Insurance Code and the superintendent finds 13 that the complaint was made in good faith and that the 14 15 insured would be aggrieved if the violation is proved, the 16 superintendent shall hold a hearing, with notice to the insured and insurer stating the grounds of complaint. If 17 upon the hearing the superintendent finds the complaint 18 justified, the superintendent shall order the insurer to 19 20 correct the matter complained of within a reasonable time specified but not less than twenty days after a copy of the 21 order was mailed to or served upon the insurer." 22

Section 37. Section 59A-18-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 346, as amended) is amended to read:

"59A-18-17. STANDARD PROVISIONS, IN GENERAL.--

A. Insurance contracts shall contain such standard or uniform provisions as are required by applicable provisions of the Insurance Code pertaining to contracts of particular kinds of insurance.

B. No policy shall contain a provision inconsistent with or contradictory to a standard or uniform provision used or required to be used, but the superintendent may approve a substitute provision that is, in the superintendent's opinion, not less favorable in any particular to the insured, owner or beneficiary than the provision otherwise required or that is designed to comply with Chapter 59A, Article 19 NMSA 1978.

C. Insurance coverage provided in residential property insurance policies shall provide coverage for the cost to repair or replace without deduction for depreciation. If the insured elects to effectuate repairs to the property by the insured's own self, a reasonable overhead expense shall be allowed.

D. In lieu of the provisions required by the Insurance Code for contracts for particular kinds of insurance, substantially similar provisions required by the laws of the domicile of a foreign or alien insurer may be used when approved by the superintendent.

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E. A policy issued by a domestic insurer for

delivery in another jurisdiction may contain any provision required or permitted under the laws of such jurisdiction.

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3 F. To protect consumers as well as enhance the value of consumer information systems, the superintendent may 4 5 specify minimum coverage provisions that homeowners insurance 6 policies, private passenger non-fleet automobile insurance policies or other lines or kinds of insurance policies that 7 8 are priced in a consumer information system shall contain, provided that such minimum coverage provisions are contained 9 10 in the majority of policies in force in New Mexico for that line or kind of insurance. An insurer that does not offer a 11 policy that contains the minimum coverage provisions 12 specified by the superintendent for a line or kind of 13 insurance shall not be included in a consumer information 14 15 system for that line or kind of insurance. The superintendent shall not compel an insurer to offer a policy 16 containing minimum coverage provisions specified by the 17 superintendent." 18

Section 38. REPEAL.--Sections 59A-17-10, 59A-17-14, 59A-17-22, 59A-17-22.1 and 59A-17-24 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Sections 306, 310 and 318, Laws 1986, Chapter 22, Section 100 and Laws 1984, Chapter 127, Section 319a, as amended) are repealed.

24 Section 39. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
25 provisions of this act is July 1, 2007.\_\_\_\_\_\_ SB 483