Session of 2008

HOUSE BILL No. 2994

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

4-4

9 AN ACT amending the unfair trade practice act; amending K.S.A. 2007 10 Supp. 40-2404 and repealing the existing section. 11 12Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas: Section 1. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 40-2404 is hereby amended to read as 13 14follows: 40-2404. The following are hereby defined as unfair methods of 15competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the business of 16 insurance: 17(1) Misrepresentations and false advertising of insurance policies. Making, issuing, circulating or causing to be made, issued or circulated, 1819any estimate, illustration, circular, statement, sales presentation, omission 20or comparison which: 21(a) Misrepresents the benefits, advantages, conditions or terms of any 22 insurance policy; 23 misrepresents the dividends or share of the surplus to be received (b) 24 on any insurance policy; 25(c) makes any false or misleading statements as to the dividends or 26share of surplus previously paid on any insurance policy; 27 (d) is misleading or is a misrepresentation as to the financial condition 28of any person, or as to the legal reserve system upon which any life insurer 29 operates; 30 (e) uses any name or title of any insurance policy or class of insurance 31policies misrepresenting the true nature thereof; 32 is a misrepresentation for the purpose of inducing or tending to (f) 33 induce the lapse, forfeiture, exchange, conversion or surrender of any 34 insurance policy; 35 (g) is a misrepresentation for the purpose of effecting a pledge or 36 assignment of or effecting a loan against any insurance policy; or 37 (h) misrepresents any insurance policy as being shares of stock. 38 (2)False information and advertising generally. Making, publishing, 39 disseminating, circulating or placing before the public, or causing, directly 40 or indirectly, to be made, published, disseminated, circulated or placed 41before the public, in a newspaper, magazine or other publication, or in 42the form of a notice, circular, pamphlet, letter or poster, or over any radio 43 or television station, or in any other way, an advertisement, announce1 ment or statement containing any assertion, misrepresentation or state-

2 ment with respect to the business of insurance or with respect to any
3 person in the conduct of such person's insurance business, which is un4 true, deceptive or misleading.

5 (3) *Defamation.* Making, publishing, disseminating or circulating, directly or indirectly, or aiding, abetting or encouraging the making, publishing, disseminating or circulating of any oral or written statement or any pamphlet, circular, article or literature which is false, or maliciously critical of or derogatory to the financial condition of any person, and which is calculated to injure such person.

(4) Boycott, coercion and intimidation. Entering into any agreement
to commit, or by any concerted action committing, any act of boycott,
coercion or intimidation resulting in or tending to result in unreasonable
restraint of the business of insurance, or by any act of boycott, coercion
or intimidation monopolizing or attempting to monopolize any part of the
business of insurance.

17 (5) *False statements and entries.* (a) Knowingly filing with any supervisory or other public official, or knowingly making, publishing, disseminating, circulating or delivering to any person, or placing before the public, or knowingly causing directly or indirectly, to be made, published, 21 disseminated, circulated, delivered to any person, or placed before the 22 public, any false material statement of fact as to the financial condition 23 of a person.

(b) Knowingly making any false entry of a material fact in any book,
report or statement of any person or knowingly omitting to make a true
entry of any material fact pertaining to the business of such person in any
book, report or statement of such person.

(6) Stock operations and advisory board contracts. Issuing or delivering or permitting agents, officers or employees to issue or deliver, agency company stock or other capital stock, or benefit certificates or shares in any common-law corporation, or securities or any special or advisory board contracts or other contracts of any kind promising returns and profits as an inducement to insurance. Nothing herein shall prohibit the acts permitted by K.S.A. 40-232, and amendments thereto.

(7) Unfair discrimination. (a) Making or permitting any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class and equal expectation of life in the rates charged for any contract of life insurance or life annuity or in the dividends or other benefits payable thereon, or in any other of the terms and conditions of such contract.

(b) Making or permitting any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class and of essentially the same hazard in the amount
of premium, policy fees or rates charged for any policy or contract of
accident or health insurance or in the benefits payable thereunder, or in

1 any of the terms or conditions of such contract, or in any other manner 2 whatever.

3 (c) Refusing to insure, or refusing to continue to insure, or limiting the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to an individual, or charg-4 ing an individual a different rate for the same coverage solely because of $\mathbf{5}$ blindness or partial blindness. With respect to all other conditions, in-6 7 cluding the underlying cause of the blindness or partial blindness, persons 8 who are blind or partially blind shall be subject to the same standards of sound actuarial principles or actual or reasonably anticipated experience 9 as are sighted persons. Refusal to insure includes denial by an insurer of 10disability insurance coverage on the grounds that the policy defines "dis-11 12 ability" as being presumed in the event that the insured loses such per-13 son's eyesight. However, an insurer may exclude from coverage disabilities consisting solely of blindness or partial blindness when such condition 1415existed at the time the policy was issued.

16Refusing to insure, or refusing to continue to insure, or limiting (d) the amount, extent or kind of coverage available for accident and health 1718and life insurance to an applicant who is the proposed insured or charge a different rate for the same coverage or excluding or limiting coverage 1920for losses or denying a claim incurred by an insured as a result of abuse 21based on the fact that the applicant who is the proposed insured is, has 22 been, or may be the subject of domestic abuse, except as provided in 23 subpart (v). "Abuse" as used in this subsection (7)(d) means one or more acts defined in subsection (a) or (b) of K.S.A. 60-3102 and amendments 24 25thereto between family members, current or former household members, 26or current or former intimate partners.

(i) An insurer may not ask an applicant for life or accident and health
insurance who is the proposed insured if the individual is, has been or
may be the subject of domestic abuse or seeks, has sought or had reason
to seek medical or psychological treatment or counseling specifically for
abuse, protection from abuse or shelter from abuse.

(ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person from declining to issue an insurance policy insuring the life of an individual who is, has been or has the potential to be the subject of abuse if the perpetrator of the abuse is the applicant or would be the owner of the insurance policy.

(iii) No insurer that issues a life or accident and health policy to an
individual who is, has been or may be the subject of domestic abuse shall
be subject to civil or criminal liability for the death or any injuries suffered
by that individual as a result of domestic abuse.

(iv) No person shall refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure,
limit the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to an individual or
charge a different rate for the same coverage solely because of physical

1 or mental condition, except where the refusal, limitation or rate differ-2 ential is based on sound actuarial principles.

3 (v) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person 4 from underwriting or rating a risk on the basis of a preexisting physical 5 or mental condition, even if such condition has been caused by abuse, 6 provided that:

7 (A) The person routinely underwrites or rates such condition in the 8 same manner with respect to an insured or an applicant who is not a 9 victim of abuse;

10 (B) the fact that an individual is, has been or may be the subject of 11 abuse may not be considered a physical or mental condition; and

12 (C) such underwriting or rating is not used to evade the intent of this 13 section or any other provision of the Kansas insurance code.

(vi) Any person who underwrites or rates a risk on the basis of preexisting physical or mental condition as set forth in subsection (7)(d)(v),
shall treat such underwriting or rating as an adverse underwriting decision
pursuant to K.S.A. 40-2,112, and amendments thereto.

(vii) The provisions of subsection (d) shall apply to all policies of life
and accident and health insurance issued in this state after the effective
date of this act and all existing contracts which are renewed on or after
the effective date of this act.

22(8) Rebates. (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, know-23 ingly permitting, offering to make or making any contract of life insurance, life annuity or accident and health insurance, or agreement as to 24 such contract other than as plainly expressed in the insurance contract 2526issued thereon; paying, allowing, giving or offering to pay, allow or give, 27 directly or indirectly, as inducement to such insurance, or annuity, any 28rebate of premiums payable on the contract, any special favor or advan-29 tage in the dividends or other benefits thereon, or any valuable consid-30 eration or inducement whatever not specified in the contract; or giving, 31 selling, purchasing or offering to give, sell or purchase as inducement to 32 such insurance contract or annuity or in connection therewith, any stocks, 33 bonds or other securities of any insurance company or other corporation, association or partnership, or any dividends or profits accrued thereon, 34 35 or anything of value whatsoever not specified in the contract.

36 (b) Nothing in subsection (7) or $(\hat{8})(a)$ shall be construed as including 37 within the definition of discrimination or rebates any of the following 38 practices:

(i) In the case of any contract of life insurance or life annuity, paying
bonuses to policyholders or otherwise abating their premiums in whole
or in part out of surplus accumulated from nonparticipating insurance.
Any such bonuses or abatement of premiums shall be fair and equitable
to policyholders and for the best interests of the company and its

1 policyholders;

(ii) in the case of life insurance policies issued on the industrial debit 2 3 plan, making allowance to policyholders who have continuously for a specified period made premium payments directly to an office of the insurer 4 in an amount which fairly represents the saving in collection expenses; or 5(iii) readjustment of the rate of premium for a group insurance policy 6 based on the loss or expense experience thereunder, at the end of the 7 8 first or any subsequent policy year of insurance thereunder, which may be made retroactive only for such policy year. 9 Unfair claim settlement practices. It is an unfair claim settlement 10(9)practice if any of the following or any rules and regulations pertaining 11 12thereto are: (A) Committed flagrantly and in conscious disregard of such provisions, or (B) committed with such frequency as to indicate a general 13 business practice. 1415(a) Misrepresenting pertinent facts or insurance policy provisions re-16lating to coverages at issue; failing to acknowledge and act reasonably promptly upon com-17(b) 18munications with respect to claims arising under insurance policies; 19failing to adopt and implement reasonable standards for the (c) 20prompt investigation of claims arising under insurance policies; 21(d) refusing to pay claims without conducting a reasonable investi-22 gation based upon all available information; 23 (e) failing to affirm or deny coverage of claims within a reasonable time after proof of loss statements have been completed; 24 not attempting in good faith to effectuate prompt, fair and equi-25(f) 26table settlements of claims in which liability has become reasonably clear; 27(g) compelling insureds to institute litigation to recover amounts due 28under an insurance policy by offering substantially less than the amounts 29 ultimately recovered in actions brought by such insureds; (h) attempting to settle a claim for less than the amount to which a 30 reasonable person would have believed that such person was entitled by 3132 reference to written or printed advertising material accompanying or made part of an application; 33 34 attempting to settle claims on the basis of an application which (i) 35 was altered without notice to, or knowledge or consent of the insured; making claims payments to insureds or beneficiaries not accom-36 (j) 37 panied by a statement setting forth the coverage under which payments 38 are being made; 39 (k) making known to insureds or claimants a policy of appealing from arbitration awards in favor of insureds or claimants for the purpose of 40compelling them to accept settlements or compromises less than the 4142amount awarded in arbitration; 43 (\mathbf{l}) delaying the investigation or payment of claims by requiring an

1 insured, claimant or the physician of either to submit a preliminary claim

2 report and then requiring the subsequent submission of formal proof of
3 loss forms, both of which submissions contain substantially the same
4 information;

5 (m) failing to promptly settle claims, where liability has become rea-6 sonably clear, under one portion of the insurance policy coverage in order 7 to influence settlements under other portions of the insurance policy cov-8 erage; or

9 (n) failing to promptly provide a reasonable explanation of the basis 10 in the insurance policy in relation to the facts or applicable law for denial 11 of a claim or for the offer of a compromise settlement.

12(10) Failure to maintain complaint handling procedures. Failure of 13 any person, who is an insurer on an insurance policy, to maintain a complete record of all the complaints which it has received since the date of 1415its last examination under K.S.A. 40-222, and amendments thereto; but 16no such records shall be required for complaints received prior to the effective date of this act. The record shall indicate the total number of 1718complaints, their classification by line of insurance, the nature of each complaint, the disposition of the complaints, the date each complaint was 1920originally received by the insurer and the date of final disposition of each complaint. For purposes of this subsection, "complaint" means any writ-2122ten communication primarily expressing a grievance related to the acts 23 and practices set out in this section.

(11) Misrepresentation in insurance applications. Making false or
fraudulent statements or representations on or relative to an application
for an insurance policy, for the purpose of obtaining a fee, commission,
money or other benefit from any insurer, agent, broker or individual.

(12) Statutory violations. Any violation of any of the provisions of
 K.S.A. 40-216, 40-276a, 40-2,155 or 40-1515 and amendments thereto.

(13) Disclosure of information relating to adverse underwriting de cisions and refund of premiums. Failing to comply with the provisions of
 K.S.A. 40-2,112, and amendments thereto, within the time prescribed in
 such section.

34 (14) Rebates and other inducements in title insurance. (a) No title 35 insurance company or title insurance agent, or any officer, employee, attorney, agent or solicitor thereof, may pay, allow or give, or offer to pay, 36 allow or give, directly or indirectly, as an inducement to obtaining any 37 38 title insurance business, any rebate, reduction or abatement of any rate 39 or charge made incident to the issuance of such insurance, any special 40 favor or advantage not generally available to others of the same classification, or any money, thing of value or other consideration or material 41inducement. The words "charge made incident to the issuance of such 42insurance" includes, without limitations, escrow, settlement and closing 43

1 charges.

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2 (b) No insured named in a title insurance policy or contract nor any 3 other person directly or indirectly connected with the transaction involving the issuance of the policy or contract, including, but not limited to, 4 mortgage lender, real estate broker, builder, attorney or any officer, em- $\mathbf{5}$ ployee, agent representative or solicitor thereof, or any other person may 6 7 knowingly receive or accept, directly or indirectly, any rebate, reduction 8 or abatement of any charge, or any special favor or advantage or any 9 monetary consideration or inducement referred to in (14)(a).

Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting: (c)

The payment of reasonable fees for services actually rendered to 11 (i) 12a title insurance agent in connection with a title insurance transaction;

13 the payment of an earned commission to a duly appointed title (ii) insurance agent for services actually performed in the issuance of the 1415policy of title insurance; or

16(iii) the payment of reasonable entertainment and advertising 17expenses.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits the division of rates and charges 18 between or among a title insurance company and its agent, or one or 1920more title insurance companies and one or more title insurance agents, 21if such division of rates and charges does not constitute an unlawful rebate 22 under the provisions of this section and is not in payment of a forwarding 23 fee or a finder's fee.

(e) As used in paragraphs (e) through (i)(7) of this subpart, unless the 24 25context otherwise requires:

26"Associate" means any firm, association, organization, partnership, (i) 27business trust, corporation or other legal entity organized for profit in 28which a producer of title business is a director, officer or partner thereof, 29 or owner of a financial interest; the spouse or any relative within the 30 second degree by blood or marriage of a producer of title business who is a natural person; any director, officer or employee of a producer of title 3132 business or associate; any legal entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with a producer of title business or associate; and 33 34 any natural person or legal entity with whom a producer of title business 35 or associate has any agreement, arrangement or understanding or pursues any course of conduct, the purpose or effect of which is to evade the 36 provisions of this section. 37

"Financial interest" means any direct or indirect interest, legal or 38 (ii)39 beneficial, where the holder thereof is or will be entitled to 1% or more of the net profits or net worth of the entity in which such interest is held. 40Notwithstanding the foregoing, an interest of less than 1% or any other 41type of interest shall constitute a "financial interest" if the primary pur-42

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pose of the acquisition or retention of that interest is the financial benefit

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to be obtained as a consequence of that interest from the referral of titlebusiness.

3 (iii) "Person" means any natural person, partnership, association, co-4 operative, corporation, trust or other legal entity.

5 (iv) "Producer of title business" or "producer" means any person, 6 including any officer, director or owner of 5% or more of the equity or 7 capital or both of any person, engaged in this state in the trade, business, 8 occupation or profession of:

(A) Buying or selling interests in real property;

(B) making loans secured by interests in real property; or

(C) acting as broker, agent, representative or attorney for a person
who buys or sells any interest in real property or who lends or borrows
money with such interest as security.

(v) "Refer" means to direct or cause to be directed or to exercise any
power or influence over the direction of title insurance business, whether
or not the consent or approval of any other person is sought or obtained
with respect to the referral.

18(f) No title insurer or title agent may accept any order for, issue a 19title insurance policy to, or provide services to, an applicant if it knows 20or has reason to believe that the applicant was referred to it by any producer of title business or by any associate of such producer, where the 2122producer, the associate, or both, have a financial interest in the title in-23 surer or title agent to which business is referred unless the producer has disclosed to the buyer, seller and lender the financial interest of the pro-24 25ducer of title business or associate referring the title insurance business.

26(g) No title insurer or title agent may accept an order for title insur-27 ance business, issue a title insurance policy, or receive or retain any pre-28 mium, or charge in connection with any transaction if: (i) The title insurer 29 or title agent knows or has reason to believe that the transaction will 30 constitute controlled business for that title insurer or title agent, and (ii) 31 70% or more of the closed title orders of that title insurer or title agent 32 during the 12 full calendar months immediately preceding the month in 33 which the transaction takes place is derived from controlled business. The 34 prohibitions contained in this subparagraph shall not apply to transactions 35 involving real estate located in a county that has a population, as shown by the last preceding decennial census, of 10,000 or less. 36

(h) Within 90 days following the end of each business year, as established by the title insurer or title agent, each title insurer or title agent
shall file with the department of insurance and any title insurer with which
the title agent maintains an underwriting agreement, a report executed
by the title insurer's or title agent's chief executive officer or designee,
under penalty of perjury, stating the percent of closed title orders originating from controlled business. The failure of a title insurer or title agent

1 to comply with the requirements of this section, at the discretion of the 2 commissioner, shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of a 3 license or other disciplinary action, with the commissioner able to miti-4 gate any such disciplinary action if the title insurer or title agent is found 5 to be in substantial compliance with competitive behavior as defined by 6 federal housing and urban development statement of policy 1996-2.

7 (i) (1) No title insurer or title agent may accept any title insurance order or issue a title insurance policy to any person if it knows or has 8 9 reason to believe that such person was referred to it by any producer of title business or by any associate of such producer, where the producer, 10 the associate, or both, have a financial interest in the title insurer or title 11 12agent to which business is referred unless the producer has disclosed in 13 writing to the person so referred the fact that such producer or associate has a financial interest in the title insurer or title agent, the nature of the 1415 financial interest and a written estimate of the charge or range of charges 16generally made by the title insurer or agent for the title services. Such disclosure shall include language stating that the consumer is not obli-1718gated to use the title insurer or agent in which the referring producer or associate has a financial interest and shall include the names and tele-19 20phone numbers of not less than three other title insurers or agents which 21operate in the county in which the property is located. If fewer than three 22 insurers or agents operate in that county, the disclosure shall include all 23 title insurers or agents operating in that county. Such written disclosure shall be signed by the person so referred and must have occurred prior 24 25to any commitment having been made to such title insurer or agent.

(2) No producer of title business or associate of such producer shall
require, directly or indirectly, as a condition to selling or furnishing any
other person any loan or extension thereof, credit, sale, property, contract,
lease or service, that such other person shall purchase title insurance of
any kind through any title agent or title insurer if such producer has a
financial interest in such title agent or title insurer.

(3) No title insurer or title agent may accept any title insurance order
or issue a title insurance policy to any person it knows or has reason to
believe that the name of the title company was pre-printed in the sales
contract, prior to the buyer or seller selecting that title company.

(4) Nothing in this subpart (i) shall prohibit any producer of title
business or associate of such producer from referring title business to any
title insurer or title agent of such producer's or associate's choice, and, if
such producer or associate of such producer has any financial interest in
the title insurer, from receiving income, profits or dividends produced or
realized from such financial interest, so long as:

42 (a) Such financial interest is disclosed to the purchaser of the title 43 insurance in accordance with part (i)(1) through (4) of this subpart; HB 2994

1 (b) the payment of income, profits or dividends is not in exchange 2 for the referral of business; and

3 (c) the receipt of income, profits or dividends constitutes only a re-4 turn on the investment of the producer or associate.

Any producer of title business or associate of such producer who 5(5)violates the provisions of paragraphs (i)(2) through (i)(4), or any title in-6 7 surer or title agent who accepts an order for title insurance knowing that 8 it is in violation of paragraphs (i)(2) through (i)(4), in addition to any other 9 action which may be taken by the commissioner of insurance, shall be subject to a fine by the commissioner in an amount equal to five times 10 the premium for the title insurance and, if licensed pursuant to K.S.A. 11 1258-3034 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall be deemed to have com-13 mitted a prohibited act pursuant to K.S.A. 58-3602, and amendments thereto, and shall be liable to the purchaser of such title insurance in an 1415amount equal to the premium for the title insurance.

16Any title insurer or title agent that is a competitor of any title (6)insurer or title agent that, subsequent to the effective date of this act, has 1718violated or is violating the provisions of subpart (i), shall have a cause of 19action against such title insurer or title agent and, upon establishing the 20existence of a violation of any such provision, shall be entitled, in addition 21to any other damages or remedies provided by law, to such equitable or 22 injunctive relief as the court deems proper. In any such action under this 23 subsection, the court may award to the successful party the court costs of the action together with reasonable attorney fees. 24

(7) The commissioner shall also require each title agent to providecore title services as required by the real estate settlement proceduresact.

(j) The commissioner shall adopt any regulations necessary to carryout the provisions of this act.

(15) Disclosure of nonpublic personal information. (a) No person 30 shall disclose any nonpublic personal information contrary to the provi-3132 sions of title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley act of 1999 (public law 106-33 102). The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations necessary to 34 carry out this section. Such rules and regulations shall be consistent with 35 and not more restrictive than the model regulation adopted on September 26, 2000, by the national association of insurance commissioners entitled 36 "Privacy of consumer financial and health information regulation". 37

(b) Any rules and regulations adopted by the commissioner which
implement article V of the model regulation adopted on September 26,
2000, by the national association of insurance commissioners entitled
"Privacy of consumer financial and health information regulation" shall
become effective on and after February 1, 2002.

43 (c) Nothing in this paragraph (15) shall be deemed or construed to

1 authorize the promulgation or adoption of any regulation which preempts,

2 supersedes or is inconsistent with any provision of Kansas law concerning
3 requirements for notification of, or obtaining consent from, a parent,
4 guardian or other legal custodian of a minor relating to any matter per-

4 guardian or other legal custodian of a minor relating to any matter pe5 taining to the health and medical treatment for such minor.

6 (16) Free insurance. (a) No person shall advertise, offer or provide 7 free insurance for damage, loss or theft as an inducement to the purchase, 8 sale or rental of household appliances or consumer electronics or services

9 directly or indirectly connected with household appliances or consumer10 electronics.

11 (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "free insurance" means:

12 (i) Insurance for which no identifiable or additional charge is made

13 to the purchaser or lessee of such household appliances or consumer elec-

14 tronics or services directly or indirectly connected with household appli-15 ances or consumer electronics; or

(ii) insurance for which an identifiable or additional charge is made
in an amount less than the cost of such insurance as to the seller, lessor
or other person, other than the insurer, providing the insurance.

19 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 40-2404 is hereby repealed.

20 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its 21 publication in the statute book.