HLS 23RS-597 REENGROSSED

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 601

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUVAL AND SENATOR TALBOT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AN ACT

INSURANCE: Provides relative to bad faith claims against insurers

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1892(A)(1) through (4) and (B)(4), to enact R.S. 22:46(29)
3	through (32), 1892(B)(1)(c), and 1892.2, and to repeal R.S. 22:1892(A)(5) and (6),
4	(B)(6), and (E) through (G), relative to bad faith insurance claims, to provide for
5	remedies for policyholders against bad faith insurers; to provide for definitions; to
6	provide for the payment and adjustment of certain insurance claims; to provide for
7	the payment of any undisputed amount due on a claim; to provide for the initiation
8	of loss adjustment; to provide for authorization to request specific documents; to
9	provide for written notice; to provide for appraisal procedures; and to provide for
10	related matters.
11	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
12	Section 1. R.S. 22:1892(A)(1) through (4) and (B)(1) and (4) are hereby amended
13	and reenacted and R.S. 22:46(29) through (32) and 1892.2 are hereby enacted to read as
14	follows:
15	§46. General definitions
16	In this Code, unless the context requires, the following definitions apply:
17	* * *
18	(29) "Amount of any claim due" means the amount of a covered loss over
19	which reasonable minds could not differ as determined by the trial court.

Page 1 of 17

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	(30) "Arbitrary, capricious, or without probable cause" means the refusal of
2	a claim, in whole or in part, that is not based on a good faith reason.
3	(31) "Catastrophic loss" means a loss that arose from a natural disaster,
4	windstorm, or significant weather-related event that was a presidentially declared
5	emergency or disaster or a gubernatorially declared emergency or disaster.
6	(32) "Disinterested" means that a party does not have, nor has he ever had,
7	a pecuniary or monetary interest in the claim, a familial relationship with either
8	party, or an employee or employer relationship with either party.
9	* * *
10	§1892. Payment and adjustment of claims, policies other than life, and health, and
11	accident; vehicle damage claims; extension of time to respond to claims
12	during emergency or disaster; penalties; arson-related claims suspension
13	A.(1) All insurers Insurers issuing any type of contract, other than those
14	specified in R.S. 22:1811, 1821, and Chapter 10 of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised
15	Statutes of 1950, shall pay transmit payment of the amount of any claim due to any
16	insured within thirty days after receipt of satisfactory proofs of loss from the insured
17	or any party in interest. The insurer shall notify the insurance producer of record of
18	all such payments for property damage claims made in accordance with this
19	Paragraph. The provisions of R.S. 22:1892 do not apply to the payment and
20	adjustment of insurance policies that cover immovable property, which are governed
21	by R.S. 22:1892.2, or manufactured and modular homes as defined by R.S.
22	<u>51:911.22.</u>
23	(2) All insurers Insurers issuing any type of contract, other than those
24	specified in R.S. 22:1811, R.S. 22:1821, and Chapter 10 of Title 23 of the Louisiana
25	Revised Statutes of 1950, shall pay the amount of any third party property damage
26	claim and of any reasonable medical expenses claim due to any bona fide third party
27	claimant within thirty days after written agreement of settlement of the claim from
28	any third party claimant.

28

29

1	(3) Except in the case of catastrophic loss, the insurer shall initiate loss
2	adjustment of a property damage claim and or of a claim for reasonable medical
3	expenses within fourteen fifteen days after notification of loss by the claimant. In
4	the case of catastrophic loss, the insurer shall initiate loss adjustment of a property
5	damage claim within thirty days after notification of loss by the claimant except that
6	the commissioner may promulgate a rule for extending the time period for initiating
7	a loss adjustment for damages arising from a presidentially declared emergency or
8	disaster or a gubernatorially declared emergency or disaster up to an additional thirty
9	days. Thereafter, only one additional thirty-day extension of the period of time for
10	initiating a loss adjustment may be allowed, or a longer period of time if necessitated
11	by civil authority orders that have prohibited access to the property subsequent to the
12	notification of loss, and must be only if first approved by the Senate Committee on
13	Insurance and the House Committee on Insurance, voting separately. Failure to
14	comply with the provisions of this Paragraph shall subject the insurer to the penalties
15	provided in R.S. 22:1973.
16	(4) All insurers shall make a written offer to settle any property damage
17	claim, including a third-party claim, within thirty days after receipt of satisfactory
18	proofs of loss of that claim.
19	* * *
20	B.(1)
21	* * *
22	(c) Claims for penalties and attorney fees pursuant to this Paragraph are
23	subject to a liberative prescriptive period of two years.
24	* * *
25	(4) Whenever a property damage claim is on a personal vehicle owned by
26	the third party claimant and as a direct consequence of the inactions of the insurer

and the third party claimant's loss the third party claimant is deprived of use of the

personal vehicle for more than five working days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and

holidays, the insurer responsible for payment of the claim shall pay, to the extent

legally responsible, for reasonable expenses incurred by the third party claimant in obtaining alternative transportation for the entire period of time during which the third party claimant is without the use of his personal vehicle. Failure to make such payment within thirty days after receipt of adequate written proof and demand therefor, when such failure is found to be arbitrary, capricious, or without probable cause shall subject the insurer to, in addition to the amount of such reasonable expenses incurred, a reasonable penalty not to exceed ten percent of such reasonable expenses or one thousand dollars whichever is greater together with reasonable attorneys attorney fees for the collection of such expenses.

* * *

§1892.2 Payment and adjustment of insurance policies that cover immovable property; extension of time to respond to claims during emergency or disaster; penalties; arson-related claims suspension

A.(1) Insurers adjusting an insurance policy that covers immovable property, including manufactured and modular homes as defined by R.S. 51:911.22, shall transmit payment of the amount of any claim due to any insured within thirty days after receipt of satisfactory proof of loss from the insured or any party in interest.

(2)(a) For purposes of this Section and for purposes of a claim for breach of R.S. 22:1973(B)(5) relating to payment and adjustment of a first-party claim arising under an insurance policy for immovable property, including manufactured and modular homes as defined by R.S. 51:911.22, "satisfactory proof of loss" means the insurer has received proof that is sufficient to establish the extent of covered damages and the amount due on an insurance claim which may be satisfied by one or more of the reports, photos, including but not limited to estimates, statements, repair receipts, invoices, and forms necessary to assess and quantify the extent and amount of covered damages sustained by the insured. An insurer may require completion of a signed statement in proof of loss which shall not be a condition of its receipt of a satisfactory proof of loss. A signed statement in proof of loss is based on the insured's knowledge of the claim at the time of the statement, and does not

1	preclude the insured from submitting a new signed proof of loss statement if any
2	additional, covered damages is discovered. An insurer is not deemed to have
3	received satisfactory proof of loss until it has initiated a loss adjustment in
4	accordance with Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.
5	(b) An insurer shall not require from the insured in a signed statement in
6	proof of loss any more than the following information, if known:
7	(i) Time and origin of the loss.
8	(ii) Occupancy of the structure.
9	(iii) Title and interest in the property.
10	(iv) Existence or non-existence of other insurance.
11	(v) Amount of loss under each coverage.
12	(vi) Signature of insured and date.
13	(3)(a) Except in the case of catastrophic loss, the insurer shall acknowledge
14	receipt of a claim, initiate loss adjustment of a property damage claim, and request
15	from the insured any items, statements, and forms that the insurer reasonably
16	believes, at that time, will be required from the insured within fifteen days after
17	notification of loss by the insured. The insurer shall send acknowledgment of its
18	receipt to the insured either by United States Postal Service mail, private commercial
19	carrier, electronic delivery, or hand delivery.
20	(b) Except in the case of catastrophic loss, failure to initiate loss adjustment
21	of a property damage claim within fifteen days after notification of loss by the
22	insured in accordance with Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall subject the
23	insurer to the penalties provided in R.S. 22:1973.
24	(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 22:1312, in the case of
25	catastrophic loss, the insurer shall acknowledge receipt of a claim, initiate loss
26	adjustment of the property damage claim, and request from the insured any items,
27	statements, and forms that the insurer reasonably believes, at that time, will be
28	required from the insured within thirty days after notification of loss by the insured.
29	However, the commissioner may promulgate and adopt a rule in accordance with the

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

Administrative Procedure Act to extend the time period up to an additional thirty days for an insurer to initiate a loss adjustment claim for damages arising from a presidentially declared emergency or disaster or a gubernatorially declared emergency or disaster. Thereafter, only one additional extension of the period of time for initiating a loss adjustment may be allowed and shall be approved by the Senate Committee on Insurance and the House Committee on Insurance, voting separately. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Paragraph shall subject the insurer to the penalties provided in R.S. 22:1973. In such cases that an insurer requires a signed statement in proof of loss as a condition of satisfactory proof of loss, the insurer shall provide the insured a form on which the insured shall submit his signed statement in proof of loss within thirty days after the insured's notification of loss as prescribed in this Subparagraph. The insurer shall send acknowledgment of its receipt to the insured either by United States mail, private commercial carrier, electronic delivery, or hand delivery. (d) An insurer may make additional requests for information or inspection if during the investigation of the claim the additional requests are necessary. A request for information already furnished in its entirety by the insured shall have no effect on the insurer's deadlines for the loss adjustment of a property damage claim as set forth in this Paragraph. (e) For matters remaining in dispute once an insurer has received all items, statements, and forms requested by the insurer, or has completed requested inspections or reinspections, an insurer shall accept or reject a claim within fifteen days of receiving all items, statements, or forms, or within fifteen days from the inspection or reinspection requested by the insurer to determine satisfactory proof of loss. The acceptance or denial of a claim may be in whole or in part.

(f) For matters remaining in dispute once an insurer has received all items, statements, and forms requested by the insurer, or completed requested inspections or reinspections, if an insurer is unable to accept or reject a claim within fifteen days after receiving the items, statements, and forms requested by an insurer, or after

completing a requested inspection or reinspection, the insurer, within that same time
period, shall notify the insured of the reasons that the insurer needs additional time
to assess the claim. The insurer shall thereafter accept or reject the claim in whole
or in part no later than thirty days from the date on which the insurer notified the
insured of the reasons that the insurer needed additional time to assess the claim.
(g) In the case of catastrophic loss, the claims handling deadlines imposed
in Subparagraphs (e) and (f) of this Paragraph shall be extended for an additional
fifteen days.
(h) Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to relieve an insurer of its
obligation to transmit payment of the amount of any claim due to any insured within
thirty days after receipt of satisfactory proof of loss as set forth in Paragraph (1) of
this Subsection, nor to extend any deadline for payment when the requested
information or inspection is found by the trier of fact to be unnecessary considering
all other proof of the loss then available to the insurer or if the request was not made
in a reasonable period.
(i) Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to prohibit an insured from
making a supplemental claim, nor to relieve an insurer from the obligation to
conduct a supplemental investigation or make a supplemental payment, if warranted
by the facts of a supplemental claim. A supplemental claim adds new found damage
or additional costs to the original claim. The fact that an insurer makes a
supplemental payment shall not itself be construed as evidence of a violation of this
Section or R.S. 22:1973.
(j) Neither the identification of covered losses nor amounts of loss listed in
a proof of loss created by an insurer or its agent relieves the insurer from its
obligation to its insured to refrain from arbitrary, capricious, or without probable
cause handling of its insured's claim.
(4) An insurer shall issue a copy of the insurer's field adjuster report, relative
to the insured's property damage claim, to the insured within fifteen days of
receiving a request for such from the insured

(5) If an insurer issues a check, draft, or other negotiable instrument that is jointly payable to an insured and a mortgagee or mortgage servicer as payment of insurance settlement proceeds for multiple types of coverage, the insurer shall provide with the check, draft, or other negotiable instrument a statement indicating the dollar amount of insurance settlement proceeds paid under each type of coverage including but not limited to dwelling, personal property, and additional living expenses. In lieu of issuing a statement pursuant to this Paragraph, an insurer may issue separate checks, drafts, or other negotiable instruments for payment of each type of coverage which shall include the specific type of coverage and amount being paid under each coverage.

B.(1)(a) Except as provided in Subparagraphs (A)(3)(b) and (c) of this Section and Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, failure to comply with Paragraphs

Section and Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, failure to comply with Paragraphs (A)(1) through (3) of this Section, when such failure is found to be arbitrary, capricious, or without probable cause, shall subject the insurer to a penalty, in addition to the amount of the loss, of fifty percent damages on the amount found to be due from the insurer to the insured, or one thousand dollars, whichever is greater, payable to the insured, or in the event a partial payment or tender has been made, fifty percent of the difference between the amount timely paid or tendered and the amount found to be due as well as reasonable attorney fees and costs. Such penalties, if awarded, shall not be used by the insurer in computing either past or prospective loss experience for the purpose of setting rates or making rate filings.

(b) Subject to the provisions of Subparagraph (A)(3)(c) of this Section, in the case of catastrophic loss, failure to comply with Paragraphs (A)(1) through (3) of this Section, when such failure is found to be arbitrary, capricious, or without probable cause, shall subject the insurer to a penalty, in addition to the amount of the loss, of fifty percent damages on the amount found to be due from the insurer to the insured, or two thousand five hundred dollars, whichever is greater, payable to the insured, or in the event a partial payment or tender has been made, fifty percent of the difference between the amount paid or tendered and the amount found to be due as

2	whichever is greater. The penalties, if awarded, shall not be used by the insurer in
3	computing either past or prospective loss experience for the purpose of setting rates
4	or making rate filings.
5	(c) Claims for penalties and attorney fees pursuant to this Paragraph are
6	subject to a liberative prescription of two years.
7	(2) The period prescribed in Subsection C of this Section for payment of
8	losses resulting from fire and the penalty provisions for nonpayment within the
9	period do not apply where the loss from fire was arson-related and the state fire
10	marshal or other state or local investigative bodies have the loss under active arson
11	investigation. The provisions relative to the time of payment and penalties shall
12	commence to run upon certification of the investigating authority that there is no
13	evidence of arson or that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further
14	proceedings.
15	(3) The provisions relative to suspension of payment due to arson do not
16	apply to a bona fide lender which holds a valid recorded mortgage on the property
17	in question.
18	(4)(a) For the purposes of this Paragraph, the following terms have the
19	meanings ascribed to them:
20	(i) "Damaged property" means a dwelling, structure, personal property, or
21	any other property, except a vehicle, that requires repairs, replacement, restoration,
22	or remediation to reestablish its former condition.
23	(ii) "Depreciation" means depreciation including but not limited to the costs
24	of goods, materials, labor, and services necessary to replace, repair, or rebuild
25	damaged property.
26	(b) An insurance policy covering damaged property may allow for
27	depreciation.

well as reasonable attorney fees and costs or two thousand five hundred dollars,

1	(c) In an insurance policy covering damaged property, the insured shall
2	provide, on a form approved by the commissioner, notice to the insured that
3	depreciation may be deducted or withheld from a claim payment.
4	(d) If depreciation is applied to a loss for damaged property, the insurer shall
5	provide a written explanation to the insured as to how the depreciation was
6	calculated.
7	(e) Depreciation shall be reasonable and based on a combination of objective
8	criteria and subjective assessment, including the actual condition of the property
9	prior to loss.
10	C.(1) All claims for losses resulting from fire brought by insureds against an
11	insurer shall be paid by check or draft of the insurer or, if offered by the insurer and
12	the insured requests, electronic transfer of funds to the order of the insured to whom
13	payment of the claim is due pursuant to the policy provisions, or his attorney, or
14	upon direction of the insured to one specified.
15	(2) An insurer shall not intentionally or unreasonably delay, for more than
16	three calendar days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, after
17	presentation for collection, the processing of any properly executed and endorsed
18	check or draft issued in settlement of an insurance claim.
19	(3) Any insurer violating this Subsection shall pay the insured or claimant
20	a penalty of two hundred dollars or fifteen percent of the face amount of the check
21	or draft, whichever is greater.
22	D.(1) An insurer shall not require that repairs, replacement, restoration, or
23	remediation be made to an insured's property by a particular preferred vendor or
24	recommended contractor.
25	(2) An insurer shall not recommend the use of a particular preferred vendor
26	or recommended contractor without informing the insured or claimant that the
27	insured or claimant is under no obligation to use the preferred vendor or
28	recommended contractor to complete repairs, replacement, restoration, or
29	remediation of the insured's property.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

E.(1) An insurer shall include a general contractor's overhead and profit in payments for losses when the services of a general contractor are reasonably foreseeable. This requirement applies to policies that provide for the adjustment and settlement of losses on a replacement cost basis and to policies that provide for the adjustment and settlement of losses on an actual cash value basis.

(2) The deduction of prospective contractor overhead, prospective contractor profit, and sales tax in determining the actual cash value of an adjustment or settlement is not allowed on replacement cost policies or on actual cash value policies.

F.(1) Residential property insurance policies shall contain the following provision, with permission to substitute the words "this Company" with a more accurate descriptive term for the insurer:

"Appraisal. If you and this Company fail to agree as to the amount of loss, either party may demand that the amount of the loss be set by appraisal. If either party makes a written demand for appraisal, each party shall select a competent, impartial, and disinterested appraiser and notify the other party of his appraiser's identity within twenty days of receipt of the written demand for appraisal. The appraisers shall select a competent, impartial, and disinterested umpire. If, after fifteen days, the appraisers have not agreed upon who will serve as umpire, the umpire shall be appointed by a judge of the court of record in which the property is located. The appraisers shall appraise the loss. If the appraisers submit written notice of an agreement as to the amount of the loss to this Company, the amount agreed upon shall set the amount of the loss. If the appraisers fail to agree within thirty days, the appraisers shall submit their differences along with any supporting documentation to the umpire, who shall appraise the loss. The appraisers may extend the time to sixty days for which they shall agree upon the amount of loss or submit their differences and supporting documents to the umpire, if the extension is agreed to by the appraisers from both parties. A written agreement signed by the umpire and either party's appraiser shall set the amount of the loss, pursuant to the

appraisal process, but shall not preclude either party from exercising its rights under
the policy or the law. Each appraiser shall be paid by the party selecting that
appraiser. Other expenses of the appraisal and the expenses of the umpire shall be
divided and paid in equal shares by you and this Company. If there is an appraisal
award, all applicable policy terms, limits, deductibles, and conditions shall apply. If
you file a lawsuit relative to this policy against this Company, the lawsuit will be
held in abatement during the period between a timely demand for appraisal and the
deadline for execution of an appraisal award, pursuant to this clause. The court of
record in which the property is located may enforce the deadlines of this clause, set
a reasonable deadline for timely demanding appraisal after all parties have filed
pleadings in a lawsuit, and require compliance with discovery and disclosure
obligations relative to aspects of the lawsuit unrelated to the appraisal."
(2) Appraisal shall be limited to the scope of and cost to repair or replace
covered damage.
(3) At least ten days before demanding appraisal, the party seeking appraisal
shall provide the other party with written documentation of the dispute as to the
amount of the loss, identifying the items of the dispute.
(4) Appraisers shall create written line-item estimates itemized by applicable
coverages, causes of loss, scope, sub limits, policy provisions, and actual cash value
or replacement cost value where applicable.
(5) An appraisal award shall include an attached written line-item estimate
itemized by applicable coverages, causes of loss, scope, sub limits, policy provisions,
and actual cash value or replacement cost value where applicable.
(6) An insurer's tender of undisputed additional amounts to the insured
within thirty days of the insurer's receipt of a valid appraisal award does not itself
constitute evidence of bad faith on the part of the insurer.
(7) If either party to an appraisal feels engagement of a specialist is required

the findings of such specialist shall be considered by the appraisers or umpire before
 arriving at an appraisal award.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. R.S. 22:1892(A)(5) and (6), (B)(6), and (E) through (G) are hereby

repealed in their entirety.

5

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 601 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Huval

Abstract: Provides for bad faith claims against insurers.

Present law provides for definitions.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and defines "amount of any claim due", "arbitrary, capricious, or without probable cause, "catastrophic loss", and "disinterested".

<u>Present law</u> requires all insurers issuing any type of contract, other than those specified in <u>present law</u>, to pay the amount of any claim due to an insured within 30 days after receipt of satisfactory proof of loss from the insured or any party in interest.

Proposed law retains present law but defines "amount of any claim due"

<u>Present law</u> requires all insurers issuing any type of contract, other than those specified in <u>present law</u>, to pay the amount of a third-party property damage claim and any reasonable medical expenses due to a bonafide third-party claimant within 30 days after written agreement of settlement of the claim from any third-party claimant.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and makes technical changes.

<u>Present law</u> requires an insurer, except in the case of a catastrophic loss, to initiate loss adjustment of a property damage claim and of a claim for reasonable medical expenses within 14 days after notification of loss by the claimant.

Proposed law changes 14 days to 15 days.

<u>Present law</u> requires an insurer, in the case of catastrophic loss, to initiate loss adjustment of a property damage claim within 30 days after notification of loss by the claimant.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes the commissioner to promulgate and adopt a rule in accordance with the APA for extending the time period for initiating a loss adjustment for damages arising from a presidentially declared emergency or disaster or a gubernatorially declared emergency or disaster up to an additional 30 days.

Proposed law retains present law.

<u>Present law</u> provides that after a catastrophic loss, only one additional extension of the period of time for initiating a loss adjustment may be allowed and must be approved by the Senate Committee on Insurance and the House Committee on Insurance, voting separately.

Page 13 of 17

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

REENGROSSED HB NO. 601

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but further authorizes an additional period of time with respect to catastrophic losses if necessitated by civil authority orders that have prohibited certain access to the insured property.

<u>Present law</u> requires insurers to make a written offer to settle any property damage claim, including a third-party claim, within 30 days after receipt of satisfactory proof of loss of that claim.

Proposed law retains present law and makes technical changes.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that claims for penalties and attorney fees are subject to a liberative prescriptive period of two years.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires insurers adjusting an insurance policy that covers immovable property, including manufactured and modular homes as defined in <u>present law</u>, to transmit payment of the amount of any claim due to an insured within 30 days after receipt of satisfactory proof of loss from the insured or any party in interest.

<u>Present law</u> provides that an insurer's failure to make such payment within 30 days after receipt of satisfactory proof of loss and demand therefor or failure to make a written offer to settle any property damage claim, including a third-party claim, subjects the insurer to certain present law penalties.

Proposed law retains present law.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that for purposes of a claim brought due to a breach of <u>present law</u> relating to payment and adjustment of a first-party claim arising under an insurance policy for immovable property, including manufactured and modular homes as defined in <u>present law</u>, "satisfactory proof of loss" means the insurer has received proof that is sufficient to establish the extent of covered damages and the amount due on an insurance claim.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes an insurer to require an insured's completion of a signed statement in proof of loss to support a claim for immovable property coverage. Further prohibits the signed statement as a condition of satisfactory proof of loss.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires an insurer, in the case of catastrophic loss, to acknowledge receipt of a claim, initiate loss adjustment of property damage claim expenses, and request from the insured any items, statements, and forms that the insurer reasonably believes, at that time, will be required from the insured within 15 days after notification of loss by the insured. <u>Proposed law</u> further requires an insurer to acknowledge its receipt to the insured by U.S.P.S. mail, private commercial carrier, electronic delivery, or hand delivery.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that an insurer's failure to initiate loss adjustment of a property damage claim within 15 days after notification of loss by the insured in accordance with <u>proposed law</u> subjects the insurer to the penalties provided in <u>present law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires an insurer, in the case of catastrophic loss, to acknowledge receipt of a claim, initiate loss adjustment of the property damage claim, and request from the insured any items, statements, and forms that the insurer reasonably believes, at that time, will be required from the insured within 30 days after notification of loss by the insured.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the commissioner to promulgate and adopt a rule in accordance with the APA to extend the time period up to an additional 30 days for an insurer to initiate a loss adjustment claim for damages arising from a presidentially declared emergency or disaster or a gubernatorially declared emergency or disaster.

REENGROSSED HB NO. 601

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that thereafter, only one additional extension of the period of time for initiating a loss adjustment may be allowed and must be approved by the Senate Committee on Insurance and the House Committee on Insurance, voting separately.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the insurer to provide the insured with a form upon which the insured is required to submit his signed statement in proof of loss within 30 days after the insured's notification of loss.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the insurer to send acknowledgment of its receipt to the insured either by U.S.P.S. mail, private commercial carrier, electronic delivery, or hand delivery.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes an insurer to make additional requests for information or inspection if during the investigation of the claim the additional requests are found to be necessary.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires an insurer to accept or reject a claim within 15 days of receiving all satisfactory proof of loss with respect to matters remaining in dispute once an insurer has received all items, statements, and forms requested by the insurer, or has completed requested inspections or reinspections.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that for matters remaining in dispute, if an insurer is unable to accept or reject a claim within 15 days after receiving the items, statements, and forms requested by an insurer, or completing a requested inspection or reinspection, the insurer, within that same time period, is required to notify the insured of the reasons the insurer needs additional time to assess the claim.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires an insurer to issue a copy of the insurer's field adjuster report, relative to the insured's property damage claim, to the insured within 15 days of receiving a request for such from the insured.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that if an insurer issues a check, draft, or other negotiable instrument that is jointly payable to an insured and a mortgage or mortgage servicer as payment of insurance settlement proceeds for multiple types of coverage, the insurer is required to provide with the check, draft, or other negotiable instrument a statement indicating the dollar amount of insurance settlement proceeds paid under each type of coverage including but not limited to dwelling, personal property, and additional living expenses.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that in lieu of issuing a statement, an insurer may issue separate checks, drafts, or other negotiable instruments for payment of each type of coverage.

Proposed law provides for penalties.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires claims brought by insureds against an insurer to be paid by check or draft of the insurer or, if offered by the insurer and the insured requests, electronic transfer of funds to the order of the insured to whom payment of the claim is due pursuant to the policy provisions, or his attorney, or upon direction of the insured to one specified.

<u>Proposed law</u> prohibits an insurer from intentionally or unreasonably delaying, for more than three calendar days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, the processing of any properly executed and endorsed check or draft issued in settlement of an insurance claim.

<u>Proposed law</u> prohibits an insurer from requiring that repairs, replacement, restoration, or remediation be made to an insured's property by a particular preferred vendor or recommended contractor.

<u>Proposed law</u> prohibits an insurer from recommending the use of a particular preferred vendor or recommended contractor without informing the insured or claimant that the insured or claimant is under no obligation to use the preferred vendor or recommended

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

contractor to complete repairs, replacement, restoration, or remediation of the insured's property.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that an insurer is required to include general contractor's overhead and profit in payments for losses when the services of a general contractor are reasonably foreseeable.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires residential property insurance policies to contain a provision that outlines a process whereby the amount of a loss may be set through appraisal, if an insurer and insured do not agree on the amount of the loss and the insurer or insured makes a demand for such.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for the implementation, initiation, and guidelines of the appraisal process.

<u>Present law</u> sets forth the acts that constitute a breach of the insurer's duties.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and reformulates the standard necessary to constitute a breach, clarifies the standard, and makes technical changes.

<u>Present law</u> provides for the penalties and damages imposed upon an insurer that does not pay an insured within a specified time period.

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 22: 1892(A)(1)-(4) and (B)(4); Adds R.S. 22:46(29)-(32) and 1892.2; Repeals R.S. 22:1892(A)(5) and (6), (B)(6), and (E)-(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Insurance</u> to the original bill:

- 1. Make technical changes.
- 2. Change the definition of "disinterested" to mean that a party does not have, nor has he ever had, a pecuniary or monetary interest in the claim, a familial relationship with either party, or an employee or employer relationship with either party.
- 3. Change "probable cause" to "reasonable cause."
- 4. Provide that immovable property shall include manufactured and modular homes.
- 5. Require that an insured provide a signed statement of proof of loss and delete the requirement that an insured give the insurer a sworn statement of proof of loss.
- 6. Provide that the commissioner of insurance may promulgate and adopt a rule in accordance with the Administrative Product Act to extend the time period up to an additional 30 days for an insurer to initiate a loss adjustment in certain circumstances.
- 7. Implement a 30-day-time period for an insurer to provide the insured with his proof of loss.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Retain "probable cause" as provided for in present law.
- 2. Define "amount of any claim due".
- 3. Delete references to "undisputed" amounts.
- 4. Authorize an additional period of time for an insurer to initiate loss adjustments with respect to cases of catastrophic loss under certain circumstances.
- 5. Delete <u>proposed law</u> requirement for an insurer to notify the insurance producer of record regarding payments for property damage claims.
- 6. Prohibit an insurer from requiring from insureds certain information that extends beyond the requirements of proposed law.
- 7. Provide that an insurer is not absolved of responsibility to refrain from certain adverse handling of insureds' claims.
- 8. Authorize the court of record in which property is located to set and enforce deadlines and require certain compliance as provided in the appraisal clause set forth in residential property insurance policies.
- 9. Delete <u>proposed law</u> language that prohibits appraisals from addressing coverage disputes.
- 10. Authorize insureds to provide reports and photos as satisfactory proof of loss.
- 11. Provide that insurers' deadlines are not extended due to certain circumstances.
- 12. Make technical changes.