

SENATE BILL NO. 169

BY SENATOR LONG

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 22:2083(A)(2), (B)(1) and (2)(c)
3 and the introductory paragraph of (h) and (v), and (C)(2)(c), 2084(6) and (12),
4 2087(A), (B), and (C), and the heading of R.S. 22:2098 and 2098(D); to enact R.S.
5 22:2083(A)(3), (4), and (5) and (B)(2)(j), 2084(11.1) and (12.1), and 2087(Q); and
6 to repeal R.S. 22:2087(D) and (E), relative to the Louisiana Life and Health
7 Insurance Guaranty Association; to provide for coverage and structured settlement
8 annuities; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 22:2083(A)(2), (B)(1) and (2)(c) and
11 the introductory paragraph of (h) and (v), and (C)(2)(c), 2084(6) and (12), 2087(A), (B), and
12 (C), and the heading of R.S. 22:2098 and 2098(D) are hereby amended and reenacted and
13 R.S. 22:2083(A)(3), (4), and (5) and (B)(2)(j), 2084(11.1) and (12.1), and 2087(Q) are
14 hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §2083. Coverages and limitations

16 A. This Part shall provide coverage for the policies and contracts specified
17 in Subsection B of this Section:

18 * * *

19 (2) To any person who is the owner of or certificate holder under such a
20 policy or contract, **other than a structured settlement annuity**, and who is either:

21 * * *

22 **(3) For structured settlement annuities specified in Subsection B of this**
23 **Section, Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Subsection shall not apply, and this Part**
24 **shall, except as provided in Paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Subsection, provide**
25 **coverage to a person who is a payee under a structured settlement annuity, or**
26 **a beneficiary of a payee if the payee is deceased, if the payee is one of the**
27 **following:**

1 (a) A resident, regardless of where the contract owner resides.

2 (b) Not a resident, but only under both of the following conditions:

3 (i) The contract owner of the structured settlement annuity either is a
 4 resident or is not a resident and meets both of the following conditions in the
 5 case where the contract owner is not a resident:

6 (aa) The insurer that issued the structured settlement annuity is
 7 domiciled in this state.

8 (bb) The state in which the contract owner resides has an association
 9 similar to the association created by this Part.

10 (ii) Neither the payee, or the beneficiary, nor the contract owner is
 11 eligible for coverage by the association of the state in which the payee or
 12 contract owner resides.

13 (4) This Part shall not provide coverage to a person who is a payee or
 14 beneficiary of a contract owner resident of this state, if the payee or beneficiary
 15 is afforded any coverage by the association of another state.

16 (5) This Part is intended to provide coverage to a person who is a
 17 resident of this state and, in special circumstances, to a nonresident. In order to
 18 avoid duplicate coverage, if a person who would otherwise receive coverage
 19 under this Part is provided coverage under the laws of any other state, the
 20 person shall not be provided coverage under this Part. In determining the
 21 application of the provisions of this Paragraph in situations where a person
 22 could be covered by the association of more than one state, whether as an
 23 owner, payee, beneficiary or assignee, this Part shall be construed in
 24 conjunction with other state laws to result in coverage by only one association.

25 B.(1) This Part shall provide coverage to the persons specified in Subsection
 26 A of this Section for direct ~~nongroup~~ **non-group** life, health, ~~or~~ annuity ~~and~~
 27 ~~supplemental~~ policies or contracts, for certificates under direct group policies and
 28 contracts; **for supplemental contracts to any of these,** and for unallocated annuity
 29 contracts, **in each case** issued by member insurers, except as limited by this Part.

30 (2) This Part shall not provide coverage for:

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(c) Any portion of a policy or contract to the extent that the rate of interest on which it is based, **or the interest rate, crediting rate, or similar factor determined by use of an index or other external reference stated in the policy or contract employed in calculating returns or changes in value:**

(i) Averaged over the period of four years prior to the date on which the association ~~becomes obligated with respect to the policy or contract~~ **member insurer becomes an impaired or insolvent insurer under this Part, whichever is earlier,** exceeds a **the** rate of interest determined by subtracting two percentage points from Moody's Corporate Bond Yield Average averaged for that same four-year period or for such lesser period if the policy or contract was issued less than four years before ~~the association became obligated~~ **the member insurer becomes an impaired or insolvent insurer under this Part, whichever is earlier.**

(ii) On and after the date on which the association ~~becomes obligated with respect to the policy or contract~~ **member insurer becomes an impaired or insolvent insurer under this Part, whichever is earlier,** exceeds the rate of interest determined by subtracting three percentage points from Moody's Corporate Bond Yield Average as most recently available.

* * *

(h) An obligation that does not arise under the express written terms of the policy or contract issued by **the insurer to** the contract owner or policy owner, including without limitations, any of the following:

* * *

(v) A claim for penalties or ~~consequences~~ **consequential** or incidental damages.

* * *

(j) A portion of a policy or contract to the extent it provides for interest or other changes in value to be determined by the use of an index or other external reference stated in the policy or contract, but which have not been credited to the policy or contract, or as to which the policy or contract owner's

1 rights are subject to forfeiture, as of the date the member insurer becomes an
 2 impaired or insolvent insurer under this Part, whichever is earlier. If a policy's
 3 or contract's interest or changes in value are credited less frequently than
 4 annually, then for purposes of determining the values that have been credited
 5 and are not subject to forfeiture under this Paragraph, the interest or change
 6 in value determined by using the procedures defined in the policy or contract
 7 shall be credited as if the contractual date of crediting interest or changing
 8 values was the date of impairment or insolvency, whichever is earlier, and shall
 9 not be subject to forfeiture.

10 C. The benefits for which the association shall become liable shall in no
 11 event exceed the lesser of the following:

12 * * *

13 (2) With respect to any one life, regardless of the number of policies or
 14 contracts:

15 * * *

16 (c) Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in the present value of annuity
 17 benefits, ~~not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars in~~ **including** net cash surrender
 18 and net cash withdrawal values.

19 * * *

20 §2084. Definitions

21 As used in this Part:

22 * * *

23 (6) "Impaired insurer" means a member insurer which, after September 30,
 24 1991, is not an insolvent insurer, and ~~meets at least one of the following criteria:~~

25 ~~(a) Is deemed by the commissioner to be potentially unable to fulfill its~~
 26 ~~contractual obligations.~~

27 ~~(b) is~~ placed under an order of rehabilitation or conservation by a court of
 28 competent jurisdiction.

29 ~~(c) In the case of a stock insurer, whose paid in capital, minimum surplus~~
 30 ~~and operating surplus, or in the case of a mutual insurer, whose minimum surplus~~

1 ~~and operating surplus does not satisfy the minimum level by this Code.~~

2 * * *

3 **(11.1) "Receivership court" means the court in the insolvent or impaired**
4 **insurer's state having jurisdiction over the conservation, rehabilitation, or**
5 **liquidation of the insurer.**

6 (12) "Resident" means ~~any a~~ person who resides in this state ~~at the time an~~
7 ~~insurer is determined to be an impaired or insolvent insurer~~ **on the date of entry of**
8 **a court order that determines a member insurer to be an impaired insurer or**
9 **a court order that determines a member insurer to be an insolvent insurer** and
10 to whom a contractual obligation is owed. A person may be a resident of only one
11 state, which in the case of a person other than a natural person shall be its principal
12 place of business. **Citizens of the United States that are either (a) residents of**
13 **foreign countries, or (b) residents of United States possessions, territories, or**
14 **protectorates that do not have an association similar to the association created**
15 **by this Part, shall be deemed residents of the state of domicile of the insurer that**
16 **issued the policies or contracts.**

17 **(12.1) "Structured settlement annuity" means an annuity purchased in**
18 **order to fund periodic payments for a plaintiff or other claimant in payment for**
19 **or with respect to personal injury suffered by the plaintiff or other claimant.**

20 * * *

21 §2087. Powers and duties of the association

22 A. If a member insurer is an impaired ~~domestic~~ insurer, the association may,
23 in its discretion, subject to any conditions imposed by the association, take such
24 actions as do not impair the contractual obligations of the impaired insurer; **and** that
25 are approved by the commissioner:

26 (1) Guarantee, assume, or reinsure, or cause to be guaranteed, assumed, or
27 reinsured, any or all of the policies or contracts of the impaired insurer.

28 (2) Provide such monies, pledges, notes, **loans**, guarantees, or other means
29 as are proper to effectuate Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and assure payment of
30 the contractual obligations of the impaired insurer pending action under Paragraph

1 (1) of this Subsection.

2 ~~(3) Loan money to the impaired insurer.~~

3 B.(1) ~~If an insurer is an impaired insurer, whether domestic, foreign, or alien,~~
4 ~~and the insurer is not paying claims timely, then subject to the preconditions~~
5 ~~specified in Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section, the association shall, in its discretion,~~
6 ~~either:~~

7 ~~(a) Take any of the actions specified in Subsection A of this Section, subject~~
8 ~~to the conditions in that Section.~~

9 ~~(b) Provide substitute benefits in lieu of the contractual obligations of the~~
10 ~~impaired insurer solely for health claims, periodic annuity benefit payments, death~~
11 ~~benefits, supplemental benefits, and cash withdrawals for policy or contract owners~~
12 ~~who petition therefor under claims of emergency or hardship in accordance with~~
13 ~~standards proposed by the association in its plan of operation and approved by the~~
14 ~~commissioner.~~

15 ~~(2) The association shall be subject to the requirements of Paragraph (1) of~~
16 ~~this Subsection only if:~~

17 ~~(a) The laws of its state of domicile of the impaired insurer provide that until~~
18 ~~all payments of or on account of the impaired insurer's contractual obligations by all~~
19 ~~guaranty associations, along with all expenses thereof and interest on all such~~
20 ~~payments and expenses, shall have been repaid to the guaranty associations or a plan~~
21 ~~of repayment by the impaired insurer shall have been approved by the guaranty~~
22 ~~associations:~~

23 ~~(i) The delinquency proceeding shall not be dismissed.~~

24 ~~(ii) Neither the impaired insurer nor its assets shall be returned to the control~~
25 ~~of its shareholders or private management.~~

26 ~~(iii) It shall not be permitted to solicit or accept new business or have any~~
27 ~~suspended or revoked license restored.~~

28 ~~(b)(i) If the impaired insurer is a domestic insurer, it has been placed under~~
29 ~~an order of rehabilitation by a court of competent jurisdiction in this state.~~

30 ~~(ii) If the impaired insurer is a foreign or alien insurer:~~

1 ~~(aa) It has been prohibited from soliciting or accepting new business in this~~
2 ~~state;~~

3 ~~(bb) Its certificate of authority has been suspended or revoked in this state;~~
4 ~~and~~

5 ~~(cc) A petition for rehabilitation or liquidation has been filed in a court of~~
6 ~~competent jurisdiction in its state of domicile by the commissioner of its state.~~

7 €. If a member insurer is an insolvent insurer, the association shall, in its
8 discretion, **either perform any of the following:**

9 (1)~~(a)~~ Guarantee, assume, or reinsure, or cause to be guaranteed, assumed,
10 or reinsured, the policies or contracts of the insolvent insurer.

11 ~~(b)~~(2) Assure payment of the contractual obligations of the insolvent insurer.

12 ~~(c)~~(3) Provide such monies, pledges, **notes, loans,** guarantees, or other
13 means as are reasonably necessary to discharge such duties.

14 ~~(2)~~(4) ~~With respect only to life and health insurance policies, provide~~
15 **Provide** benefits and coverages in accordance with Subsection ~~D~~ C of this Section.

16 ~~D. C. When proceeding under Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) of this Section or~~
17 ~~Paragraph (C)(2) of this Section, the association shall, with With respect to only life~~
18 and health insurance policies **and annuities the association shall:**

19 (1) Assure payment of benefits for premiums identical to the premiums and
20 benefits, except for terms of conversion and renewability, that would have been
21 payable under the policies **or contracts** of the insolvent insurer, for claims incurred.

22 (a) With respect to group policies **and contracts,** not later than the
23 ~~succeeding~~ **earlier of the** next renewal date under such policies or contracts or
24 forty-five days, but in no event less than thirty days, after the date on which the
25 association becomes obligated with respect to such policies **and contracts.**

26 (b) With respect to ~~individual~~ **non-group** policies, **contracts, and annuities,**
27 not later than the earlier of the ~~succeeding~~ **next** renewal date, if any, under such
28 policies or one year, but in no event less than thirty days, from the date on which the
29 association becomes obligated with respect to such policies **or contracts.**

30 (2) Make reasonable and diligent efforts to provide all known insureds **or**

1 annuitants for non-group policies and contracts, or group policyholders with
 2 respect to group policies and contracts, thirty days prior notice of the termination
 3 of the benefits provided.

4 (3) With respect to individual policies non-group life and health insurance
 5 policies and annuities covered by the association, make available to each known
 6 insured or annuitant, or owner if other than the insured or annuitant, and with
 7 respect to an individual formerly insured or formerly an annuitant under a group
 8 policy who is not eligible for replacement group coverage, make available substitute
 9 coverage on an individual basis in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (4)
 10 of this Subsection, if the insureds or annuitants had a right under law or the
 11 terminated policy or annuity to convert coverage to individual coverage or to
 12 continue an individual policy or annuity in force until a specified age or for a
 13 specified time, during which the insurer ~~shall have~~ had no right to unilaterally alter
 14 any provision of the policy or annuity or had a right to undertake alterations only
 15 in premium by class.

16 (4)(a) In providing the substitute coverage required under Paragraph (3) of
 17 this Subsection, the association may offer either to reissue the terminated coverage
 18 or to issue an alternative policy.

19 (b) Alternative or reissued policies shall be offered without requiring
 20 evidence of insurability, and shall not provide for any waiting period or exclusion
 21 that would not have applied under the former terminated policy.

22 (c) The association may reinsure any alternative or reissued policy.

23 (5)(a) Alternative policies adopted by the association shall be subject to the
 24 prior approval of the domiciliary insurance commissioner and the receivership
 25 court. The association may adopt alternative policies of various types for future
 26 issuance without regard to any particular impairment or insolvency ~~of an insurer~~.

27 (b) Alternative policies shall contain at least the minimum statutory
 28 provisions required in this state; and ~~shall~~ provide benefits that shall not be
 29 unreasonable in relation to the premium charged. The association shall set the
 30 premium in accordance with a table of rates ~~which~~ that it shall adopt ~~in its plan of~~

1 operation. The premium shall reflect the amount of insurance to be provided and the
 2 age and class of risk of each insured, but shall not reflect any changes in the health
 3 of the insured after the original policy was last underwritten.

4 (c) Any alternative policy issued by the association shall provide coverage
 5 of a type similar to that of the policy issued by the impaired or insolvent insurer, as
 6 determined by the association.

7 (6) If the association elects to reissue terminated coverage at a premium rate
 8 different from that charged under the terminated policy, the premium shall be set by
 9 the association in accordance with the amount of insurance provided and the age and
 10 class of risk, subject to the ~~prior~~ approval of the domiciliary insurance
 11 commissioner ~~or by a court of competent jurisdiction~~ and the receivership court.

12 (7) The association's obligations with respect to coverage under any policy
 13 of the impaired or insolvent insurer or under any reissued or alternative policy shall
 14 cease on the date ~~such~~ the coverage or policy is replaced by another similar policy
 15 by the ~~policyholder~~ policy owner, the insured, or the association.

16 (8) When proceeding under this Subsection with respect to a policy or
 17 contract carrying guaranteed minimum interest rates, the association shall
 18 assure the payment or crediting of a rate of interest consistent with R.S.
 19 22:2083(B)(2)(c).

20 E. ~~When proceeding under Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section with respect to~~
 21 ~~any policy or contract carrying guaranteed minimum interest rates, the association~~
 22 ~~shall assure the payment or credit of a rate of interest consistent herein.~~

23 * * *

24 Q. In carrying out its duties in connection with guaranteeing, assuming,
 25 or reinsuring policies or contracts under this Section, the association may,
 26 subject to approval of the receivership court, issue substitute coverage for a
 27 policy or contract that provides an interest rate, crediting rate, or similar factor
 28 determined by use of an index or other external reference stated in the policy
 29 or contract employed in calculating returns or changes in value by issuing an
 30 alternative policy or contract that meets the following requirements:

1 (1) In lieu of the index or other external reference provided for in the
2 original policy or contract, the alternative policy or contract provides for one
3 of the following:

- 4 (a) A fixed interest rate.
- 5 (b) Payment of dividends with minimum guarantees.
- 6 (c) A different method for calculating interest or changes in value.

7 (2) There is no requirement for evidence of insurability, waiting period,
8 or other exclusion that would not have applied under the replaced policy or
9 contract.

10 (3) The alternative policy or contract is substantially similar to the
11 replaced policy or contract in all other material terms.

12 §2098. Prohibited advertisement of Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty

13 Association Act in insurance sales; notice to policyholders

14 * * *

15 D. No insurer or agent may deliver a policy or contract described in R.S.
16 22:2083(B)(1) and excluded by R.S. 22:2083(B)(2)(~~a~~) from coverage under this Part
17 unless the insurer or agent, prior to or at the time of delivery gives the policy or
18 contract holder a separate written notice which clearly and conspicuously discloses
19 that the policy or contract is not covered by the association. The commissioner shall
20 by rule specify the form and content of the notice.

21 Section 2. R.S. 22:2087(D) and (E) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____