SENATE BILL 784

C4 6lr2797 CF HB 900

By: Senator Middleton, Astle, Benson, Feldman, Hershey, Jennings, Kelley, Klausmeier, Mathias, Pugh, and Reilly

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 25, 2016

CHAP	TER	

1 AN ACT concerning

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2 Motor Vehicle Insurance – Personal Injury Protection – Optional <u>Rejection of</u> Coverage

FOR the purpose of requiring certain insurers to offer, instead of provide, certain motor vehicle liability insurance coverage for certain medical, hospital, and disability benefits: authorizing a certain first named insured to exclude from certain coverage benefits for certain individuals; providing that an exclusion from certain benefits constitutes an exclusion from all benefits described in certain provisions of law: authorizing certain individuals to recover certain benefits under certain circumstances; requiring an insurer to provide a certain notice to a certain first named insured: prohibiting an insurer from refusing to underwrite a certain person under certain circumstances; providing that an insurer is subject to certain penalties for a certain violation; repealing a requirement that a certain first named insured make a waiver of certain benefits under certain circumstances; repealing certain provisions of law relating to a certain waiver, including what the waiver constitutes, who is bound by the waiver, who may recover benefits if there is a waiver, when the waiver is effective, and how the waiver is made; repealing a requirement that a certain security provide certain personal injury protection benefits under certain eircumstances providing that, under certain circumstances, a first named insured under a certain policy of motor vehicle liability insurance is not required to obtain coverage for certain medical, hospital, and disability benefits that must be provided by certain insurers; requiring the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund to offer a certain first named insured at a certain time the option to reject coverage for certain benefits under certain circumstances; authorizing an insurer other than the Fund to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 offer a certain first named insured at a certain time the option to reject coverage for 2 certain benefits under certain circumstances; requiring a certain first named 3 insured, at the time of application for a certain policy, to make a certain election; 4 requiring the election to be made on a certain form; authorizing the form to be part of the insurance contract; requiring the form to contain a certain explanation in a 5 6 certain manner; providing that a certain rejection of coverage for certain benefits is 7 effective until a certain time except under certain circumstances; requiring, on 8 renewal of a certain policy, that a certain insurer provide certain coverage under 9 certain circumstances; altering a certain minimum security requirement; requiring 10 the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to consult with certain insurers, insurance producers, and certain other persons in developing a certain form; requiring the 11 12 Fund and certain insurers to annually report certain information to the Maryland Insurance Administration; requiring the Administration to compile certain 13 information and, on or before a certain date, report certain findings and 14 recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly; making 15 conforming changes; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating 16 17 to optional personal injury protection coverage under policies of motor vehicle 18 liability insurance.

- 19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 20 Article Insurance
- 21 Section 19–505
- 22 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 23 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- 24 BY repealing repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 25 Article Insurance
- 26 Section 19–506
- 27 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 28 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- 29 BY adding to
- 30 <u>Article Insurance</u>
- 31 Section 19–506.1
- 32 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 33 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- 34 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 35 Article Transportation
- 36 Section 17–103
- 37 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 38 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- 39 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 40 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

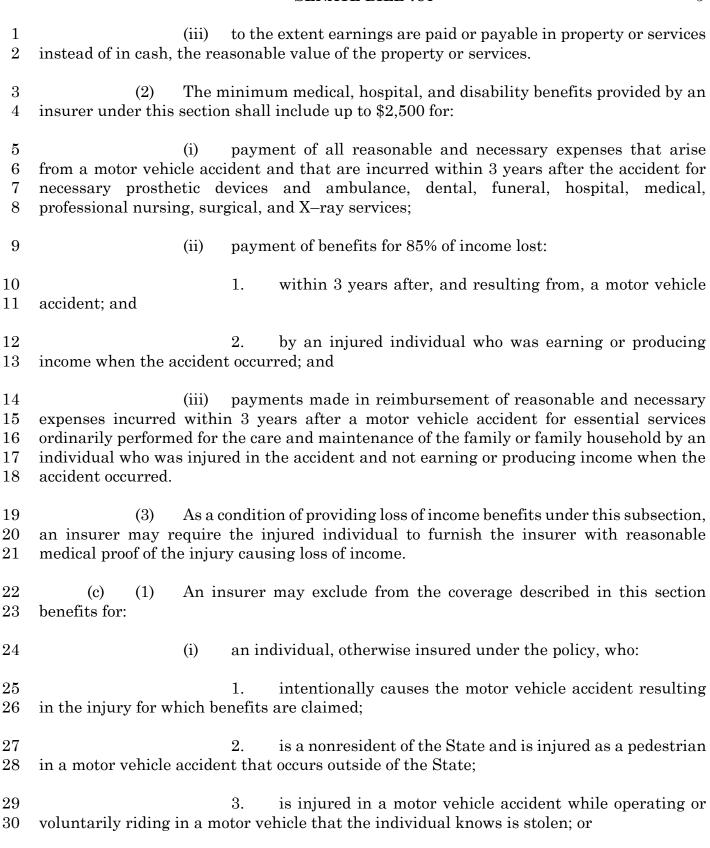
1	19–505.
2 3 4 5 6	(a) (1) [Unless waived in accordance with § 19–506 of this subtitle OF REJECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19–506.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE, each] EACH insured that issues, sells, or delivers a motor vehicle liability insurance policy in the State shall provide] OFFER coverage for the medical, hospital, and disability benefits described in this section.
7	(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION
8 9	THE COVERAGE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE BENEFITS for each of the following individuals:
10 11	$\{(1)\}$ except for individuals specifically excluded under § 27–609 of this article:
12 13 14 15	t (i)] the first named insured, and any family member of the first named insured who resides in the first named insured's household, who is injured in any motor vehicle accident, including an accident that involves an uninsured motor vehicle or a motor vehicle the identity of which cannot be ascertained; and
16 17 18	{(ii)} 2 any other individual who is injured in a motor vehicle accident while using the insured motor vehicle with the express or implied permission of the named insured;
19 20	$\{(2)\}$ an individual who is injured in a motor vehicle accident while occupying the insured motor vehicle as a guest or passenger; and
21 22	$\{(3)\}$ an individual who is injured in a motor vehicle accident that involves the insured motor vehicle:
23	{ (i) } 1 as a pedestrian; or
$\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$	₹(ii) ♣ while in, on, or alighting from a vehicle that is operated by animal or muscular power.
26 27 28	(3) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH THE FIRST NAMED INSURED MAY EXCLUDE FROM THE COVERAGE DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION BENEFITS FOR:
29	1. EACH NAMED INSURED;

EACH LISTED DRIVER; AND

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1 2	3. EACH MEMBER OF THE FIRST NAMED INSURED'S FAMILY RESIDING IN THE FIRST NAMED INSURED'S HOUSEHOLD WHO IS AT LEAST
3	16 YEARS OLD.
4	(II) AN EXCLUSION FROM BENEFITS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH
5	CONSTITUTES AN EXCLUSION FROM ALL OF THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN THIS
6	SECTION, WHETHER PROVIDED UNDER:
7	1. THE FIRST NAMED INSURED'S POLICY;
8	2. ANY OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE
9	POLICY ISSUED IN THE STATE; OR
10	3. ANOTHER FORM OF SECURITY USED IN PLACE OF A
11	MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 17–103 OF
12	THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.
13	(III) AN INDIVIDUAL LISTED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I)2 OR 3 OF
14	THIS PARAGRAPH MAY RECOVER THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION
15	UNDER ANOTHER MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY IF THAT
16	INDIVIDUAL:
17	1. IS THE FIRST NAMED INSURED UNDER THE OTHER
18	POLICY;
19	2. HAS NOT EXCLUDED THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN
20	THIS SECTION UNDER THE OTHER POLICY; AND
21	3. IS NOT A NAMED INSURED UNDER ANY OTHER MOTOR
22	VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY UNDER WHICH AN EXCLUSION OF THE
23	BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION IS IN EFFECT.
24	(IV) AN INSURER SHALL PROVIDE THE FIRST NAMED INSURED
25	WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE NATURE, EXTENT, AND COST OF THE COVERAGE THAT
26	WOULD BE PROVIDED UNDER THE POLICY IF NOT EXCLUDED BY THE FIRST NAMED
27	INSURED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.
28	(b) (1) In this subsection, "income" means:
29 30	(i) wages, salaries, tips, commissions, professional fees, and other earnings from work or employment;
31 32	(ii) earnings from a business or farm owned individually, jointly, or in partnership; and



is injured in a motor vehicle accident while committing a

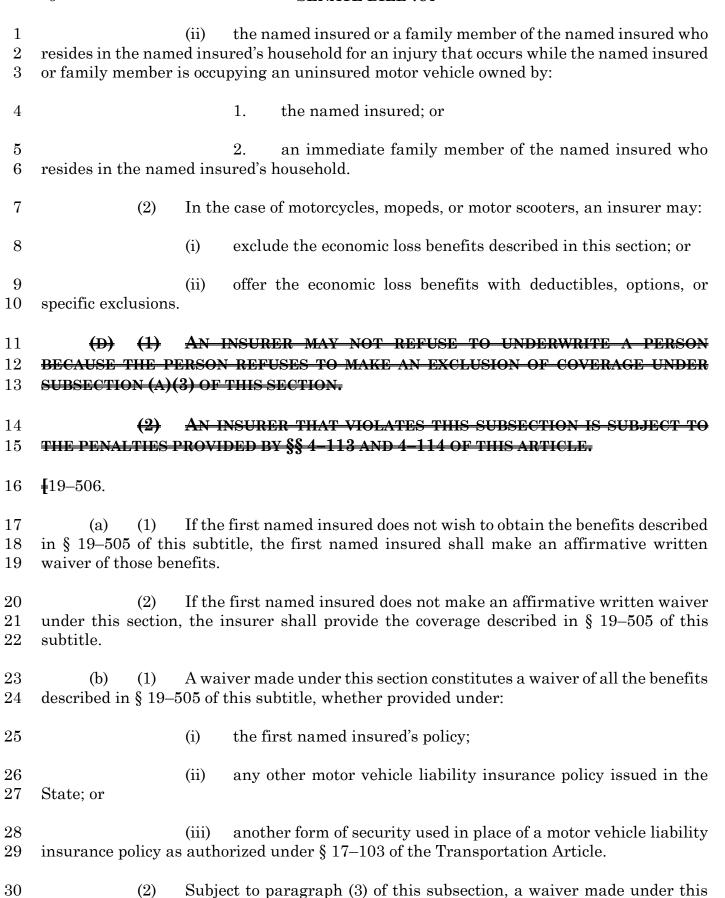
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felony or while violating § 21–904 of the Transportation Article; or

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section is binding on the following individuals covered by the policy:

1		(i)	each named insured;
2		(ii)	each listed driver; and
3 4	first named insure	(iii) d's hou	each member of the first named insured's family residing in the usehold who is at least 16 years old.
5 6 7	(3) recover the benefit liability insurance	ts desc	dividual listed in paragraph (2)(ii) or (iii) of this subsection may cribed in § 19–505 of this subtitle under another motor vehicle if that individual:
8		(i)	is the first named insured under the other policy;
9 10	under the other po	(ii) licy; aı	has not waived the benefits described in $\S~19{-}505$ of this subtitle $\tt nd$
11 12 13	insurance policy unis in effect.	(iii) nder w	is not a named insured under any other motor vehicle liability hich a waiver of the benefits described in \S 19–505 of this subtitle
14 15 16	the insurer gives t	he firs	ade under this section is not effective unless, prior to the waiver, t named insured written notice of the nature, extent, and cost of § 19–505 of this subtitle.
17 18	(d) (1) Commissioner requ		iver made under this section shall be made on the form that the
19	(2)	The fo	orm may be part of the insurance contract.
20	(3)	The fo	orm shall clearly and concisely explain in 10 point boldface type:
21 22	provided under the	(i) policy	the nature, extent, and cost of the coverage that would be if not waived by the first named insured;
23		(ii)	each effect of a waiver as stated in subsection (b) of this section;
24 25	requires an insure	(iii) r to pro	that a failure of the first named insured to make a waiver ovide the coverage described in § 19–505 of this subtitle;
26 27	the person refuses	(iv) to wai	that an insurer may not refuse to underwrite a person because ve the coverage described in § 19–505 of this subtitle; and
28 29	written waiver.	(v)	that a waiver made under this section must be an affirmative

- 1 (e) A waiver made under this section by a person that is insured continuously by 2 the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund or the insurer is effective until the waiver is 3 withdrawn in writing.
- 4 (f) (1) An insurer may not refuse to underwrite a person because the person 5 refuses to waive the coverage described in § 19–505 of this subtitle.
- 6 (2) An insurer that violates this subsection is subject to the penalties 7 provided by $\S\S 4-113$ and 4-114 of this article.
- 8 **19–506.1.**
- 9 (A) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING §§ 19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A
- 10 FIRST NAMED INSURED IS NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS
- 11 <u>DESCRIBED IN §§ 19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE UNDER A MOTOR VEHICLE</u>
- 12 LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY THAT:
- 13 (I) PROVIDES COVERAGE THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE
- 14 MINIMUM LIABILITY COVERAGE SPECIFIED IN § 17–103(B) OF THE
- 15 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE; AND
- 16 (II) 1. SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IS
- 17 ISSUED, SOLD, OR DELIVERED BY THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND;
- 18 **OR**
- 2. SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IS
- 20 ISSUED, SOLD, OR DELIVERED BY AN INSURER OTHER THAN THE MARYLAND
- 21 AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND.
- 22 (2) THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND SHALL OFFER A
- 23 FIRST NAMED INSURED, AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR A POLICY DESCRIBED IN
- 24 PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE OPTION TO REJECT COVERAGE FOR
- 25 THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN §§ 19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE IF, PRIOR
- 26 TO THE APPLICATION, THE APPLICANT HAS NOT BEEN INSURED CONTINUOUSLY BY
- 27 THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR.
- 28 (3) AN INSURER OTHER THAN THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE
- 29 INSURANCE FUND MAY OFFER A FIRST NAMED INSURED, AT THE TIME OF
- 30 APPLICATION FOR A POLICY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
- 31 THE OPTION TO REJECT COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN §§ 19–505
- 32 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE IF:
- 33 <u>(I) PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION, THE APPLICANT WAS INSURED</u>
- 34 BY AN INSURER OTHER THAN THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND; AND

1 2	(II) THE INSURER UNDER THE PRIOR POLICY CANCELED THE POLICY BEFORE THE END OF THE POLICY'S TERM.
3 4 5	(B) AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR A POLICY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(1)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE FIRST NAMED INSURED SHALL ELECT IN WRITING TO:
6 7	(1) OBTAIN COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN § 19–505 OF THIS SUBTITLE;
8 9	(2) WAIVE COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN § 19–505 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR
10 11	(3) REJECT COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN §§ 19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.
12 13	(C) (1) THE ELECTION UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE ON THE FORM THAT THE COMMISSIONER REQUIRES.
14	(2) THE FORM MAY BE PART OF THE INSURANCE CONTRACT.
15 16	(3) THE FORM SHALL CLEARLY AND CONCISELY EXPLAIN IN 10 POINT BOLDFACE TYPE:
17 18	(I) THAT THE FIRST NAMED INSURED MUST ELECT IN WRITING TO:
19 20	1. OBTAIN COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN § 19–505 OF THIS SUBTITLE;
21 22	2. WAIVE COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN § 19–505 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR
23 24	3. REJECT COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN §§ 19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION;
25 26 27	(II) THE NATURE, EXTENT, AND COST OF COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN §§ 19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE IF NOT REJECTED BY THE FIRST NAMED INSURED;
28	(III) THAT THE ELECTION TO REJECT COVERAGE FOR THE

BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN §§ 19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS EFFECTIVE UNTIL THE END OF THE POLICY'S TERM UNLESS

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THE FIRST NAMED INSURED:

1	1. WITHDRAWS THE REJECTION IN WRITING;
2	2. OBTAINS A MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE
3	POLICY FOR THE INSURED MOTOR VEHICLE FROM ANOTHER INSURER; OR
4	3. INCREASES ANY COVERAGE UNDER THE POLICY TO AN
5	AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS THE MINIMUM LIABILITY COVERAGE SPECIFIED IN §
6	17–103(B) OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE; AND
7	(IV) THAT ON RENEWAL OF THE POLICY, UNLESS THE FIRST
8	NAMED INSURED NOTIFIES THE INSURER IN WRITING THAT THE FIRST NAMED
9	INSURED WISHES TO OBTAIN COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN § 19–505
10	OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE INSURER SHALL PROVIDE THE COVERAGE DESCRIBED IN §
11	19-506 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
12	(D) (1) A REJECTION OF COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN §§
13	19–505 AND 19–506 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS
14	EFFECTIVE UNTIL THE END OF THE POLICY'S TERM UNLESS THE FIRST NAMED
15	INSURED:
16	(I) WITHDRAWS THE REJECTION IN WRITING;
17	(II) OBTAINS A MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY
18	FOR THE INSURED MOTOR VEHICLE FROM ANOTHER INSURER; OR
19	(III) INCREASES ANY COVERAGE UNDER THE POLICY TO AN
20	AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS THE MINIMUM LIABILITY COVERAGE SPECIFIED IN §
21	17–103(B) OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.
ດດ	(9) On Denemal OF THE DOLLOW LINLEGG THE EIDER NAMED
22 23	(2) ON RENEWAL OF THE POLICY, UNLESS THE FIRST NAMED INSURED NOTIFIES THE INSURER IN WRITING THAT THE FIRST NAMED INSURED
$\frac{23}{24}$	WISHES TO OBTAIN COVERAGE FOR THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN § 19–505 OF THIS
$\frac{24}{25}$	SUBTITLE, THE INSURER SHALL PROVIDE THE COVERAGE DESCRIBED IN § 19–506
26	OF THIS SUBTITLE.
_ •	
27	Article - Transportation
28	17–103.
29	(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the form of
30	security required under this subtitle is a vehicle liability insurance policy written by an
31	insurer authorized to write these policies in this State.

- 1 (2) The Administration may accept another form of security in place of a vehicle liability insurance policy if it finds that the other form of security adequately provides the benefits required by subsection (b) of this section.
 - (3) The Administration shall, by regulation, assess each self–insurer an annual sum which may not exceed \$750, and which shall be used for actuarial studies and audits to determine financial solvency.
 - (b) The security required under this subtitle shall provide for at least:

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- 8 (1) The payment of claims for bodily injury or death arising from an 9 accident of up to \$30,000 for any one person and up to \$60,000 for any two or more persons, 10 in addition to interest and costs;
- 11 (2) The payment of claims for property of others damaged or destroyed in 12 an accident of up to \$15,000, in addition to interest and costs;
- 13 (3) Unless waived <u>UNDER § 19–506 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE OR</u>
 14 <u>REJECTED UNDER § 19–506.1 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE</u>, the benefits described
 15 under § 19–505 of the Insurance Article as to basic required primary coverage;
- 16 (4) The benefits required under § 19–509 of the Insurance Article as to required additional coverage; and
- 18 **[**(5)**]** (4) For vehicles subject to the provisions of § 25–111.1 of this article, 19 the security requirements adopted under 49 C.F.R., Part 387.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Insurance Commissioner shall consult with insurers, insurance producers, and any other person that the Commissioner determines is appropriate in developing the form required under § 19–506.1(c) of the Insurance Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, including use of the form by written and electronic means.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

- 26 (a) The Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund and other insurers that offer first
 27 named insureds the option to elect to reject coverage for the benefits described in §§
 28 19–505 and 19–506 of the Insurance Article in accordance with § 19–506.1 of the Insurance
 29 Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall report to the Maryland Insurance
 30 Administration, on an annual basis as determined by the Maryland Insurance
 31 Commissioner, for policies subject to this Act that are issued, sold, or delivered beginning
 32 on the effective date of this Act through October 31, 2019, on:
- 33 (1) the number of first named insureds who were eligible to make an election under § 19–506.1(b) of the Insurance Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act;

1 2 3 4	(2) the number of first named insureds who elected to obtain coverage for the benefits described in §§ 19–505 and 19–506 of the Insurance Article, and the number of first named insureds who elected to reject those benefits, under § 19–506.1(b) of the Insurance Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act; and
5	(3) any other related information that the Commissioner requires.
6	(b) The Maryland Insurance Administration shall:
7 8	(1) compile the information received from the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund and other insurers under subsection (a) of this section; and
9 10 11	(2) on or before December 1, 2019, report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, its findings and any recommendations.
12 13 14	SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all motor vehicle liability insurance policies subject to this Act that are issued, sold, or delivered in the State on or after October 1, 2016.
15 16	SECTION $\stackrel{2}{=}$ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.
	Approved:
	Governor.
	President of the Senate.
	Speaker of the House of Delegates.