
By: Delegates Pendergrass and Turner

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 1997

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Insurance - Fraternal Benefit Societies - Exempted Societies**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting a certain type of fraternal benefit society from certain
4 provisions of the fraternal benefit society and insurance laws; and generally relating
5 to fraternal benefit societies.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Insurance
8 Section 8-404(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1995 Volume and 1996 Supplement)
11 (As enacted by Chapter 36 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Insurance**

15 8-404.

16 (a) Except as provided in this section, this subtitle and the other insurance laws of
17 the State do not apply to:

18 (1) a grand or subordinate lodge or society, order, or association that:

- 19 (i) was doing business in the State on December 31, 1963;
- 20 (ii) provides benefits exclusively through local or subordinate lodges;
- 21 and
- 22 (iii) does not issue benefit certificates;

23 (2) an order, society, or association that:

24 (i) 1. limits its membership to individuals engaged in one or more
25 crafts or hazardous occupations in the same or similar lines of business; OR

26 2. HAS A PURELY RELIGIOUS PURPOSE AND PROVIDED
27 HEALTH AND ACCIDENT BENEFITS ON AND BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1997; and

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1 (ii) insures only its members and their families and dependents;

2 (3) a society or auxiliary of an order, society, or association described in
3 item (2) of this subsection;

4 (4) a domestic society that:

5 (i) limits its membership to employees of a particular municipal area
6 or a designated firm, business house, or corporation;

7 (ii) provides for individual death benefits not exceeding \$400 per year
8 or disability benefits not exceeding \$350 per year or both; and

9 (iii) does not issue benefit certificates; and

10 (5) a domestic society or association that:

11 (i) has a purely religious, charitable, or benevolent purpose;

12 (ii) provides for individual death benefits not exceeding \$400 per year
13 or disability benefits not exceeding \$350 per year or both;

14 (iii) does not issue benefit certificates; and

15 (iv) has a membership of not more than 1,000 individuals.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 1997.