

HOUSE BILL 138

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1999 Regular Session  
9r0054

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By: **Chairman, Economic Matters Committee (Departmental - Insurance Administration, Maryland)**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 1999

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Insurance - Property and Casualty - Refusal to Issue or Renew - Geographic**  
3 **Area**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring an insurer to have the approval of the Insurance  
5 Commissioner before the insurer may refuse to issue or renew certain contracts  
6 of insurance under certain circumstances; and generally relating to an insurer's  
7 refusal to issue or renew insurance contracts under certain circumstances.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Insurance  
10 Section 19-107  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Insurance**

16 19-107.

17 (a) An insurer may not refuse to issue or renew a contract of motor vehicle  
18 insurance, property insurance, or casualty insurance solely because the subject of the  
19 risk or the applicant's or insured's address is located in a certain geographic area of  
20 the State unless:

21 (1) at least 60 days before the refusal[.];

22 (I) the insurer has filed with the Commissioner a written  
23 statement designating the geographic area; and

24 (II) THE COMMISSIONER HAS APPROVED THE DESIGNATION; AND

25 (2) the designation has an objective basis and is not arbitrary or  
26 unreasonable.

1 (b) A statement filed with the Commissioner under this section is a public  
2 record.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 1999.