SB 401/10 – FIN

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By: Senators Pugh, Colburn, Gladden, Jones-Rodwell, McFadden, Raskin, Robey, and Stone

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2011 Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund – Acceptance of Premiums on Installment Basis

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund to accept $\mathbf{5}$ premiums on an installment basis under certain circumstances; requiring the 6 Maryland Insurance Commissioner to ensure certain provisions of the Fund's 7 installment payment plan; prohibiting the Fund from discriminating among 8 insureds in a certain manner; prohibiting the Fund from paying a higher 9 commission to certain producers; requiring certain written and electronic 10 communications to include a certain statement under certain circumstances; requiring the Executive Director of the Fund, in consultation with the 11 12Commissioner and other State agencies, to develop certain criteria for a certain 13 evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the Fund's installment payment 14 plan; requiring the Fund to determine certain information and the Board of 15Trustees of the Fund to certify the information to the Board of Directors of the 16 Industry Automobile Insurance Association on or before a certain date each 17year; requiring the Executive Director of the Fund to submit on or before a 18 certain date each year a certain report to the Commissioner; authorizing the 19 Commissioner to make a certain determination under certain circumstances: 20requiring the Commissioner to make a certain determination on certain dates; 21requiring the Commissioner to retain a certain actuary and hold a certain 22hearing under certain circumstances; requiring a premium finance company, in 23the event of a certain insurance policy cancellation, to credit to a certain account 24or refund to a certain insured a certain amount within a certain time; requiring 25an independent insurance producer to provide a certain disclosure under certain 26circumstances; requiring the Commissioner to study the enforcement of 27eligibility criteria for insurance coverage in the Fund; requiring the Fund to 28provide certain information to the Office of Legislative Audits on or before a 29certain date; requiring the Office to evaluate the overall costs of the Fund's 30 installment payment plan on or before a certain date; requiring the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{array} $	Commissioner to submit certain reports; requiring the Office to submit a certain report; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the effective dates of this Act; making certain stylistic and conforming changes; and generally relating to accepting premiums on an installment basis on policies issued by the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund.							
	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Insurance Section 20–101(a) and (g) Annotated Code of Maryland (2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)							
$ \begin{array}{c} 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \end{array} $	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Insurance Section 20–404, 20–507, 23–304, and 23–505.2 Annotated Code of Maryland (2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)							
$\frac{16}{17}$	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:							
18	Article – Insurance							
19	20–101.							
20	(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.							
21	(g) "Fund" means the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund.							
22	20-404.							
$23 \\ 24 \\ 25$	(a) On or before March 15 of each year, the Fund shall determine and the Board of Trustees shall certify to the Board of Directors the information required under subsections (b) [and], (c), AND (G)(1) of this section.							
26 27 28	(b) Subject to subsection (f) of this section, the following information certified to the Board of Directors shall be separately identified by commercial auto and private passenger auto results:							
29 30	(1) the statutory operating loss for the immediately preceding calendar year;							
31 32 33 34	(2) a calculation to yield a private passenger auto assessment limit that is determined by subtracting the year-end total surplus of the Fund for the immediately preceding calendar year from an amount equal to 25% of the average of not direct written private passenger auto promiums of the Fund for each of the							

net direct written private passenger auto premiums of the Fund for each of the
[three] 3 immediately preceding calendar years; and

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1 a calculation to yield a commercial auto assessment limit that is (3) $\mathbf{2}$ determined by subtracting the year-end commercial auto surplus of the Fund for the 3 immediately preceding calendar year from an amount equal to 25% of the average of 4 net direct written commercial auto premiums of the Fund for each of the 3 $\mathbf{5}$ immediately preceding calendar years. 6 (c) The assessment certified to the Board of Directors shall be equal to: 7 subject to subsection (d) of this section, the assessment limit, if the (1)8 assessment limit is less than or equal to the statutory operating loss; or 9 (2)the statutory operating loss, if the assessment limit is greater than the statutory operating loss. 10 11 (d) If the calculation under subsection (b)(2) of this section yields a number that is less than or equal to zero, the assessment limit is zero. 1213The statutory operating loss or assessment certified to the Board of (e) Directors may not include: 14 15(1)assessment moneys received for a prior year; or 16 (2)moneys transferred between the commercial auto and private 17passenger auto divisions within the Fund. 18 (f) In a calculation made under this section, income or expenses not clearly 19 attributable to either commercial auto or private passenger auto may be allocated pro 20rata for that year. 21ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE EXECUTIVE (G) (1) 22**DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER ON:** 23**(I)** THE PRIOR YEAR-END TOTAL SURPLUS OF THE FUND; 24AND 25**(II)** THE PRIOR YEAR NET DIRECT WRITTEN PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTO PREMIUMS OF THE FUND. 2627(2) **(I)** EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (V) OF THIS 28PARAGRAPH, AS THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES NECESSARY, THE 29COMMISSIONER MAY MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THE FUND'S SURPLUS IS EXCESSIVE. 30 31IN MAKING A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THE **(II)** 32FUND'S SURPLUS IS EXCESSIVE, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

AN 1 1. RETAIN INDEPENDENT ACTUARY IN $\mathbf{2}$ ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–307 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND 3 2. HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING. 4 (III) IF THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT THE FUND'S SURPLUS IS EXCESSIVE, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT, IN $\mathbf{5}$ ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE 6 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS 7 8 **COMMITTEE ON:** 9 1. THE STATUS OF THE SURPLUS; AND 2. 10 THE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IN 11 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, FOR POTENTIAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF ANY EXCESS SURPLUS, INCLUDING PREMIUM RATE 1213 ADJUSTMENTS FOR FUND INSUREDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 20-507(D) OF 14 THIS TITLE. 15(IV) THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL:** 16 171. **CONSIDER THE TRENDS OF THE:** 18 A. ANNUAL YEAR-END TOTAL SURPLUS OF THE FUND; AND 1920В. ANNUAL NET DIRECT WRITTEN PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTO PREMIUMS OF THE FUND; AND 21222. **BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FACT THAT:** 23A. SURPLUS FUNDS WERE DERIVED FROM 24COMMERCIAL AUTO AND PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTO PREMIUMS AND THE 25**INVESTMENT EARNINGS ON THOSE PREMIUMS:** 26**B**. AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF SURPLUS PROTECTS THE 27DRIVING PUBLIC FROM AN ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; 28AND 29C. THE TOTAL SURPLUS GROWS AND DIMINISHES

30 DEPENDING ON EXTERNAL MARKET FORCES.

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1 **(V)** NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (I) **OF** THIS $\mathbf{2}$ PARAGRAPH, THE COMMISSIONER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH, 3 SHALL MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THE FUND'S SURPLUS IS 4 **EXCESSIVE AND SUBMIT A REPORT:** 1. $\mathbf{5}$ ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2011; AND 6 2. ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2014, OR 2 YEARS 7FOLLOWING THE INCEPTION OF THE OFFERING OF AN INSTALLMENT PAYMENT 8 PLAN OPTION BY THE FUND UNDER § 20–507(G) OF THIS TITLE, WHICHEVER IS 9 LATER. 10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland 11 read as follows: Article – Insurance 121320-507.14Subject to the approval of the Commissioner, the Executive Director shall (a) 15determine the premiums to be charged on policies issued by the Fund. 16 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the provisions (1)17of Title 11, Subtitle 2 of this article apply to the determination of premiums by the Executive Director. 18 19 Notwithstanding Title 11, Subtitle 2 of this article or any other (2)20provision of this title, the Executive Director may base premiums on one or both of the 21following items: 22(i) the number of points accumulated by an insured or 23applicant for insurance under the point system provided for in Title 16, Subtitle 4 of the Transportation Article; or 2425(ii) the prior claims experience of an insured or applicant for 26insurance. 27(c) (1)Premiums for all commercial coverage shall be determined in accordance with this section and § 20–508 of this subtitle. 2829Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, the rating (2)30 principles under subsection (d) of this section may not be used to determine the 31premium for commercial coverage. 32In reviewing rates filed by the Fund, the Commissioner shall consider not (d)33 only the rating principles under Title 11, Subtitle 2 of this article but also the statutory purpose of the Fund under § 20–301 of this title. 34

1 The Motor Vehicle Administration and Executive Director may (e) (1)2 arrange for the Motor Vehicle Administration to collect premiums on policies issued by 3 the Fund when the Motor Vehicle Administration issues a driver's license or certificate 4 of registration. 5 (2)A premium collected under this subsection shall be paid to the State Treasurer for the account of the Fund. 6 7(f) The Fund may not: (1)8 (i) provide directly or indirectly for the financing of premiums; 9 or 10 (ii) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS 11 **SECTION,** accept premiums on an installment basis. 12A premium may be financed only by a premium finance company (2)13 registered with the Commissioner in accordance with § 23–201 of this article. 14If a prospective insured's initial payment to the Fund, a fund (3)15producer, or premium finance company is not honored, a policy or endorsement issued 16 in reliance on that payment is void. 17(G) (1) **(I)** SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER 18 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, THE FUND MAY ACCEPT PREMIUMS ON AN INSTALLMENT BASIS ONLY ON 12-MONTH PERSONAL LINES 19 20POLICIES. 21(II) IN APPROVING THE FUND'S PLAN FOR ACCEPTING 22PREMIUMS ON AN INSTALLMENT BASIS. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ENSURE 23THAT THE FUND'S INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN: 241. **REQUIRES AN INSURED'S INITIAL PREMIUM** 25PAYMENT TO BE NO LESS THAN 15% OF THE TOTAL PREMIUM; 2. 26IS STRUCTURED AND ADMINISTERED TO ENSURE 27THAT THE FUND AT NO TIME PROVIDES INSURANCE COVERAGE TO AN INSURED 28FOR A PERIOD DURING WHICH THE FUND HAS NOT RECEIVED THE 29**ACTUARIALLY JUSTIFIED PREMIUM PAYMENT:** 30 3. OFFERS NO MORE THAN NINE INSTALLMENT 31 **PAYMENTS ON THE 12–MONTH POLICY;** 324. ALLOWS INSUREDS TO MAKE AN INITIAL PREMIUM 33 PAYMENT AND INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS IN ANY COMMERCIALLY ACCEPTABLE

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1 FORM, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE PAYMENT BY CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR 2 ELECTRONIC TRANSFER; AND

5. ALLOWS THE FUND TO IMPOSE AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING FEE ON INSUREDS PARTICIPATING IN THE INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN OF NO MORE THAN \$8 PER INSTALLMENT PAYMENT.

7 (2) THE FUND MAY NOT DISCRIMINATE AMONG INSUREDS BY 8 CHARGING A DIFFERENT WRITTEN OR EARNED PREMIUM BASED ON THE 9 PAYMENT OPTION SELECTED BY AN INSURED OR ON WHETHER THE FUND 10 PRODUCER IS EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC ENTITY OR A PRIVATE ENTITY.

(3) THE FUND MAY NOT PAY A HIGHER COMMISSION TO A FUND
PRODUCER THAT PLACES AN INSURED IN AN INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN
OVER ANY OTHER PAYMENT OPTION, INCLUDING A PREMIUM FINANCE
AGREEMENT.

15 (4) (I) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH, WRITTEN AND 16 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING THE FUND'S WEB SITE, 17 AFFECTING THE PLACEMENT OF COVERAGE BY THE FUND OR A FUND 18 PRODUCER SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT, ON A FORM APPROVED BY THE 19 COMMISSIONER, ADVISING AN APPLICANT OR AN INSURED OF THE PAYMENT 20 OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE APPLICANT OR THE INSURED.

21 (II) THE STATEMENT SHALL STATE THAT THE APPLICANT 22 OR INSURED HAS THE FOLLOWING PAYMENT OPTIONS:

23		1.	THE FUN	D'S INSTALLME	ENT PAYMENT	PLAN;	
24		2.	A PREMIU	JM FINANCE AC	REEMENT; O	R	
25		3.	PAYMENT	T OF THE POLIC	Y IN FULL.		
26 27	(III) ELECTRONIC COMMUN			NT SHALL BE I E TIME THE AP			OR
28		1.	IS ISSUEI	O A NEW POLICY	Y;		
29 30	OF AN EXISTING POLIC	2. Y; OR	IS ISSUEI	D A REISSUANC	E, REWRITE,	OR RENEV	WAL
$\frac{31}{32}$	EXISTING POLICY.	3.	INCURS	ADDITIONAL	PREMIUMS	UNDER	AN

(IV) THE STATEMENT SHALL STATE THAT THE APPLICANT 1 $\mathbf{2}$ OR INSURED SHOULD CONSULT A FUND PRODUCER WHO WILL FULLY DESCRIBE 3 THE TERMS OF EACH PAYMENT OPTION. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IN CONSULTATION WITH 4 (5) **(I)** THE COMMISSIONER AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES AS APPROPRIATE, SHALL $\mathbf{5}$ 6 DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 7 **FUND'S INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN.** 8 **(II)** THE EVALUATION SHALL INCLUDE THE IMPACT OF THE 9 PLAN ON: 10 1. THE COST OF AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE; 11 2. THE NUMBER OF INSURED AND UNINSURED 12MOTORISTS IN THE STATE; 13 3. THE NUMBER OF POLICIES IN FORCE BY 14**GEOGRAPHIC AREA;** 15**4**. THE DURATION OF POLICIES IN FORCE; AND 16 5. THE FREQUENCY OF PAYMENT METHODS USED BY 17INSUREDS, INCLUDING THE FUND'S INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN, PREMIUM FINANCE AGREEMENTS, AND CASH AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS. 18 19(III) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE FUND 20SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER ON THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FUND'S INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN FOR THE PRIOR YEAR BASED ON: 21221. THE EVALUATION CRITERIA DEVELOPED UNDER 23SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; AND 242. THE LIMITATIONS OF THE TERMS OF THE PLAN 25UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II)1 AND 3 OF THIS SUBSECTION. 26(6) **(I) ON RECEIPT OF THE REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH** OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL 27(5)(III) MAKE A 28DETERMINATION ON THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FUND'S 29INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN, INCLUDING A REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSIONER RELATING TO THE FUND'S INSTALLMENT 30 31 PAYMENT PLAN AND TO PREMIUM FINANCE AGREEMENTS.

1 (II) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE 2 COMMISSIONER SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1246 OF 3 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE 4 AND THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE ON:

5 **1.** THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FUND'S 6 INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN; AND

7 2. THE COMMISSIONER'S DETERMINATION UNDER § 8 20-404(G)(2)(I) OF THIS TITLE.

9 23-505.2.

10 (a) An insurer that markets through independent insurance producers as 11 defined in this article may not discriminate, intimidate, or retaliate against an 12 insurance producer or insured that uses premium financing by denying the insurance 13 producer or insured the same rights accorded to insurance producers or insureds who 14 pay premiums in a different manner.

15 (b) (1) With respect to personal lines automobile insurance OTHER THAN 16 INSURANCE WRITTEN THROUGH THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE 17 FUND, an independent insurance producer, who directly or indirectly has an 18 ownership interest in a premium finance company, shall provide a disclosure to be 19 signed by the insured comparing the costs and terms of premium financing with the 20 insurer's alternative payment plan.

21(2) WITH RESPECT TO PERSONAL LINES **AUTOMOBILE** 22INSURANCE WRITTEN THROUGH THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE 23FUND. AN INDEPENDENT INSURANCE PRODUCER SHALL **PROVIDE** A 24DISCLOSURE TO BE SIGNED BY THE INSURED COMPARING THE COSTS AND 25TERMS OF PREMIUM FINANCING WITH THE FUND'S ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT 26PLAN.

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(c) The disclosure required by subsection (b) of this section shall:

(1) state the total amount to be paid by the insured under the premium finance agreement during the policy term, including premium, any down payment, and all interest, fees, and charges incident to the premium finance agreement and resulting extension of credit; and

(2) state the total amount to be paid by the insured under the
 insurer's alternative payment plan during the policy term, including premium, any
 down payment, and all fees and charges incident to the alternative payment plan.

35 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland 36 read as follows:

	10	SENATE BILL 43					
1		Article – Insurance					
2	23-304.						
3	(A)	The finance charge shall be computed:					
4 5 6		(1) on the amount of the entire premium loan advanced, including any s that are financed under § 23–301.1 of this subtitle, after subtracting any ent on the premium loan made by the insured;					
$7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10$	(2) from the inception date of the insurance contract or from the due date of the premium, disregarding any grace period or credit allowed for payment of the premium, through the date when the final installment under the premium finance agreement is payable; and						
11		(3) at a rate not exceeding 1.15% for each 30 days, charged in advance.					
$12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15$	(B) IN THE EVENT OF A CANCELLATION OF A MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND POLICY, THE PREMIUM FINANCE COMPANY, WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE UNEARNED PREMIUM ON THE POLICY OF AN INSURED, SHALL CREDIT TO THE INSURED'S ACCOUNT OR REFUND TO THE INSURED:						
16		(1) ANY UNEARNED PREMIUMS DUE UNDER THE POLICY; AND					
17 18	ACTUARIA	(2) ANY UNEARNED FINANCE CHARGES, CALCULATED BY THE L METHOD.					
19	SECT	FION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:					
20 21 22 23 24	Maryland A 2–1246 of t	On or before December 31, 2011, the Maryland Insurance Commissioner the enforcement of eligibility criteria for insurance coverage in the Automobile Insurance Fund and submit a report, in accordance with § the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the comic Matters Committee.					
25	(b)	The study required under subsection (a) of this section shall include:					
$\begin{array}{c} 26\\ 27 \end{array}$	that applica	(1) the effectiveness of current procedures to enforce the requirement ants be declined coverage by at least two private automobile insurers;					
$28 \\ 29$	coverage in	(2) the number and percentage of Fund insureds with continuous the Fund for a period of more than 1 year; and					
30 31 32	coverage in chargeable	(3) the number and percentage of Fund insureds with continuous the Fund for a period of more than 1 year and with no moving violations or accidents.					

1 (c) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall include the 2 Commissioner's findings and recommendations to encourage Fund insureds to obtain 3 coverage from private insurers.

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SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

5 (a) On or before March 1, 2013, the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund 6 shall provide to the Office of Legislative Audits a report on the Fund's installment 7 payment plan from its inception of the offering of the installment payment plan 8 through December 31, 2012, that includes:

9 (1) the number and cost of full-time and part-time Fund employees 10 used;

11 (2) the costs of establishing the program, including consultants and 12 vendors, new software purchased, modified, or developed internally, and new 13 hardware and other physical plant added;

14 (3) the costs of operating the program, including printing, mailing, 15 payment processing, and management;

16 (4) the reduction in investment income caused by implementation of17 the installment payment plan billing;

18 (5) the amount of earned but uncollected premium and costs 19 associated with collecting bad debt;

20 (6) the payment methods used by insureds, including the extent to 21 which insureds use the Fund's installment payment plan, premium finance 22 agreements, credit cards, and cash payments; and

23 (7) any other pertinent information the Office requests from the Fund
 24 or the Maryland Insurance Commissioner.

(b) On or before June 30, 2013, the Office of Legislative Audits shall evaluate
the overall costs of the Fund's installment payment plan and submit a report, in
accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance
Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
 take effect October 1, 2011, and shall apply to all policies and contracts issued by the
 Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund on or after October 1, 2011.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall
 take effect July 1, 2012, and shall apply to all premium finance agreements entered
 into on or after July 1, 2012.

1 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in 2 Sections 6 and 7 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2011.