HOUSE BILL 1748

C4 8lr3828

By: **Delegate Sydnor**
Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2018
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Homeowner's Insurance – Discrimination in Underwriting and Rating – Status**
3 **as Surviving Spouse**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an insurer, with respect to homeowner's insurance, from
5   increasing the premium of an insured who becomes a surviving spouse based solely
6   on the insured's change in marital status; and generally relating to homeowner's
7   insurance.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9   Article – Insurance
10   Section 27–501(e–2)(1)
11   Annotated Code of Maryland
12   (2017 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14   Article – Insurance
15   Section 27–501(e–2)(2)
16   Annotated Code of Maryland
17   (2017 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Insurance

21 27–501.

22   (e–2) (1)   In this subsection, "credit history" means any written, oral, or other
23 communication of any information by a consumer reporting agency bearing on a consumer's
24 creditworthiness, credit standing, or credit capacity that is used or expected to be used, or
25 collected in whole or in part, for the purpose of determining personal lines insurance

1   premiums or eligibility for coverage.

2   (2)   With respect to homeowner's insurance, an insurer may not:

3   (i)   refuse to underwrite, cancel, or refuse to renew a risk based, in
4   whole or in part, on the credit history of an applicant or insured;

5   (ii)   rate a risk based, in whole or in part, on the credit history of an
6   applicant or insured in any manner, including:

7   1.   the provision or removal of a discount;

8   2.   assigning the insured or applicant to a rating tier; or

9   3.   placing an insured or applicant with an affiliated
10   company; **[**or**]**

11   (iii)   require a particular payment plan based, in whole or in part, on
12   the credit history of the insured or applicant**; OR**

13   **(IV)   INCREASE THE PREMIUM FOR AN INSURED WHO BECOMES A**
14   **SURVIVING SPOUSE BASED SOLELY ON THE INSURED'S CHANGE IN MARITAL STATUS**.

15   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16   October 1, 2018.