

SENATE BILL 607

C4

9lr2148
CF HB 191

By: **Senators Hester, Benson, Feldman, Smith, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2019

Assigned to: Finance

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 and 2018 Supplement)

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 and 2018 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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, 2019.