

SENATE BILL 530

C4

(3lr2095)

ENROLLED BILL

— Finance/Economic Matters —

Introduced by **Senators Klausmeier and McCray**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Insurance – Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund – Assessments**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the formula for the calculation of certain assessments by the
4 Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund; requiring the ~~Maryland Insurance~~
5 ~~Commissioner~~ Board of Trustees of the Fund, under certain circumstances, to
6 authorize the ~~Maryland Automobile Insurance~~ Fund to withdraw certain amounts
7 from ~~a certain overassessment account~~ the money held by the Fund from a prior
8 overassessment to offset certain private passenger auto and commercial auto
9 assessments; prohibiting members of the Industry Automobile Insurance
10 Association from being subject to an annual assessment under certain
11 circumstances; requiring certain Association members to return certain excess
12 surcharges, rather than depositing the excess in a certain reserve fund; ~~requiring in~~
13 ~~a certain fiscal year that a certain percentage of certain fines collected from~~
14 ~~uninsured motorists be paid to the Fund~~ requiring in a certain fiscal year that

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 *additional funds be allocated to the Fund*; and generally relating to the Maryland
2 Automobile Insurance Fund.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
4 Article – Insurance
5 Section 20–401
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Insurance
10 Section 20–404, 20–405, 20–409, and 20–410
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 17–106(e) ~~and (f)~~
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 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 20–401.

22 There is an Industry Automobile Insurance Association.

23 20–404.

24 (a) On or before March 15 of each year, the Fund shall determine and the Board
25 of Trustees shall certify to the Board of Directors the information required under
26 subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

27 (b) Subject to subsection (f) of this section, the following information certified to
28 the Board of Directors shall be separately identified by commercial auto and private
29 passenger auto results:

30 (1) the statutory operating loss for the immediately preceding calendar
31 year;

32 (2) a calculation to yield a private passenger auto assessment limit that is
33 determined by subtracting the year–end total surplus of the Fund for the immediately
34 preceding calendar year from an amount equal to 25% of the average of net direct written

1 private passenger auto premiums of the Fund for each of the three immediately preceding
2 calendar years; and

3 (3) a calculation to yield a commercial auto assessment limit that is
4 determined by subtracting the year-end commercial auto surplus of the Fund for the
5 immediately preceding calendar year from an amount equal to 25% of the average of net
6 direct written commercial auto premiums of the Fund for each of the 3 immediately
7 preceding calendar years.

8 (c) The assessment certified to the Board of Directors shall be equal to:

9 (1) subject to subsection (d) of this section, the assessment limit, if the
10 assessment limit is less than or equal to the statutory operating loss; or

11 (2) the statutory operating loss, if the assessment limit is greater than the
12 statutory operating loss.

13 (d) If the calculation under subsection (b)(2) of this section yields a number that
14 is less than or equal to zero, the assessment limit is zero.

15 (e) The statutory operating loss or assessment certified to the Board of Directors
16 may not include:

17 (1) assessment money received for a prior year; or

18 (2) money transferred between the commercial auto and private passenger
19 auto divisions within the Fund.

20 (f) In a calculation made under this section, income or expenses not clearly
21 attributable to either commercial auto or private passenger auto may be allocated pro rata
22 for that year.

23 **(G) PROMPTLY AFTER THE CERTIFICATION OF ~~A TOTAL~~ AN ASSESSMENT BY**
24 **THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR COMMERCIAL AUTO OR PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTO**
25 **UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL**
26 **NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CERTIFICATION.**

27 **(H) ~~NOTWITHSTANDING THE COMMERCIAL AUTO AND PASSENGER AUTO~~**
28 **~~PORTIONS OF THE OVERASSESSMENT ACCOUNT HELD BY THE FUND, ON APPROVAL~~**
29 **~~OF THE CERTIFICATION BY THE COMMISSIONER, THE COMMISSIONER ON THE~~**
30 **COMMISSIONER'S VERIFICATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CERTIFICATION,**
31 **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL AUTHORIZE THE FUND TO WITHDRAW ~~FROM THE~~**
32 **MONEY HELD BY THE FUND FROM A PRIOR OVERASSESSMENT:**

1 (1) AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE ~~TOTAL~~ COMMERCIAL AUTO OR
 2 PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTO ASSESSMENT, IF THE ~~TOTAL~~ ASSESSMENT BALANCE FOR
 3 THAT PORTION EXCEEDS THE ~~TOTAL~~ ASSESSMENT; OR

4 (2) THE ENTIRE COMMERCIAL AUTO OR PRIVATE PASSENGER AUTO
 5 BALANCE ~~IN THE ACCOUNT~~, IF THE ~~TOTAL~~ ASSESSMENT EQUALS OR EXCEEDS THE
 6 BALANCE ~~IN THE ACCOUNT~~ FOR THAT PORTION.

7 (I) ASSOCIATION MEMBERS MAY NOT BE SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL
 8 ASSESSMENT IF ~~FUNDS IN THE~~ THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HELD BY THE FUND FROM A
 9 PRIOR OVERASSESSMENT ACCOUNT ARE IS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE ~~TOTAL~~
 10 ASSESSMENT.

11 (J) ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ARE SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
 12 UNDER § 20-405 OF THIS SUBTITLE IF ~~FUNDS IN THE~~ THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HELD
 13 BY THE FUND FROM A PRIOR OVERASSESSMENT ACCOUNT ARE IS LESS THAN THE
 14 ~~TOTAL~~ ASSESSMENT, BASED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

15 (1) THE ~~TOTAL~~ COMMERCIAL AUTO ASSESSMENT OR PRIVATE
 16 PASSENGER AUTO ASSESSMENT; AND

17 (2) THE APPLICABLE ~~FUNDS IN THE~~ AMOUNT OF MONEY HELD BY THE
 18 FUND FROM A PRIOR OVERASSESSMENT ACCOUNT.

19 ~~(K) MONEY WITHDRAWN BY THE FUND UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS~~
 20 ~~SECTION~~

21 (K) (1) ON JUNE 1, 2023, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL AUTHORIZE
 22 THE FUND TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MONEY HELD BY THE FUND FROM A PRIOR
 23 OVERASSESSMENT.

24 (2) THE FUNDS WITHDRAWN:

25 ~~(1)~~ (I) SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO THE SURPLUS OF THE FUND; AND

26 ~~(2)~~ (II) MAY NOT BE CREDITED TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

27 (L) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, THE FUND SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO
 28 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE
 29 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE APPLICATION OF THE FUNDS WITHDRAWN UNDER
 30 THIS SECTION AND ALL FUND BALANCES IN THE FUND'S INSURED AND UNINSURED
 31 DIVISIONS.

1 (a) In this section, “net direct written premiums” means direct gross premiums
2 written on all policies of motor vehicle liability insurance and motor vehicle physical
3 damage insurance less return premiums or dividends paid or credited to policyholders with
4 respect to those policies.

5 (b) On or before June 30 of each year in which the Board of Directors receives the
6 certification of an actual commercial auto or private passenger auto assessment for a
7 preceding calendar year, the Board of Directors shall perform the duties specified in this
8 section.

9 (c) The Board of Directors shall obtain from the Commissioner the aggregate net
10 direct written premiums of all Association members during the most recent calendar year
11 determined by the Commissioner for commercial auto and private passenger auto divisions
12 of motor vehicle liability insurance and motor vehicle physical damage insurance.

13 (d) (1) The Board of Directors shall calculate assessment allocation
14 percentages for commercial auto and private passenger auto divisions by dividing the most
15 recent certified assessment for commercial auto and private passenger auto divisions by
16 the total of:

17 (i) the respective aggregate net direct written premiums obtained
18 under subsection (c) of this section; and

19 (ii) the respective total net direct written premiums of the Fund for
20 the same period.

21 (2) The assessment allocation percentage for the private passenger auto
22 division may not exceed 3%.

23 (e) The Board of Directors shall give notice of the assessment allocation
24 percentages determined under this section to the Fund, the Commissioner, and all
25 Association members.

26 (f) The Board of Directors promptly shall assess and collect from each Association
27 member for the commercial auto and private passenger auto divisions an assessment
28 obtained by:

29 (1) multiplying the Association member’s net direct written premiums in
30 each division for the most recent calendar year determined by the Commissioner by the
31 appropriate assessment allocation percentage, calculated under subsection (d) of this
32 section; and

33 (2) adjusting the resulting product for any [surcharge excess or] shortfall
34 experienced by the Association member for the previous applicable surcharge year.

1 (g) An Association member may deduct an assessment payment from a
2 retaliatory tax but may not deduct the payment from any other assessment or tax required
3 by law.

4 (h) (1) The Association:

5 (i) first, shall deposit the certified assessment into the Insufficiency
6 Assessment Reserve Fund that is created under § 20–410 of this subtitle and apply the
7 appropriate parts of the certified assessment to the private passenger auto and commercial
8 auto divisions of the Insufficiency Assessment Reserve Fund; and

9 (ii) then, shall pay to the Fund the entire certified assessment in one
10 sum, less the part of the certified assessment allocated to the Fund.

11 (2) Any money in the Insufficiency Assessment Reserve Fund from a
12 previous year shall be paid to the Fund on December 31 of each year.

13 20–409.

14 (a) If the aggregate amount of assessment surcharges received by an Association
15 member during a surcharge year is less than that Association member's assessment
16 payment, the Association member's assessment surcharge authorized under § 20–406 of
17 this subtitle shall be increased accordingly for the next appropriate surcharge year.

18 (b) **(1)** If the aggregate amount of assessment surcharges received by an
19 Association member during a recoupment year exceeds the Association member's
20 assessment payment, the Association [member shall deposit the excess in the Insufficiency
21 Assessment Reserve Fund as provided in § 20–410 of this subtitle and shall receive a credit
22 for the amount deposited against the next appropriate assessment imposed under this
23 subtitle] **SHALL PROMPTLY RETURN THE EXCESS TO THE ASSOCIATION MEMBER.**

24 **(2) AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER TO WHOM AN EXCESS IS RETURNED**
25 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:**

26 **(I) REFUND THE EXCESS TO THE POLICYHOLDERS WHO PAID**
27 **THE EXCESS; OR**

28 **(II) APPLY THE EXCESS AS AN EXPENSE REDUCTION IN A**
29 **SUBSEQUENT RATE FILING.**

30 [(c) The Association may adjust the annual assessment allocation percentage for
31 an Association member to reflect any surcharge excess or shortfall for the previous
32 applicable surcharge year.]

33 20–410.

1 (a) There is an Insufficiency Assessment Reserve Fund.

2 (b) The Insufficiency Assessment Reserve Fund shall be maintained by the
3 Association and shall consist of[:

4 (1) payments of] assessment [surcharges] PAYMENTS collected by the
5 Association [to cover any actual operating loss that the Fund sustains;

6 (2) any gross excess surcharges received by an Association member on
7 account of an assessment made under this subtitle; and

8 (3) the full amount of the income from assessment payments and gross
9 excess surcharges in investments] AND INTEREST, IF ANY.

10 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Association
11 shall hold money of the Insufficiency Assessment Reserve Fund in trust in a separate
12 interest-bearing account in a financial institution in the State for the use of the Fund.

13 (2) The Association may authorize the financial institution where the
14 money is deposited to invest all or part of the money in investments allowed for casualty
15 insurers, as provided in §§ 5–601 through 5–609 of this article.

16 (d) An Association member shall deposit with the Association any gross excess
17 surcharges received because of a future assessment not later than October 15 after the
18 surcharge year in which the gross excess surcharge was received.

19 Article – Transportation

20 17–106.

21 (e) (1) (i) 1. Except as provided in subparagraphs (iv) and (v) of this
22 paragraph, in addition to any other penalty provided for in the Maryland Vehicle Law, if
23 the required security for a vehicle terminates or otherwise lapses during its registration
24 year, the Administration may assess the owner of the vehicle with a penalty of \$150 for
25 each vehicle without the required security for a period of 1 to 30 days.

26 2. If a fine is assessed, beginning on the 31st day the fine
27 shall increase by a rate of \$7 for each day.

28 (ii) Each period during which the required security for a vehicle
29 terminates or otherwise lapses shall constitute a separate violation.

30 (iii) The penalty imposed under this subsection may not exceed
31 \$2,500 for each violation in a 12-month period.

1 (iv) The Administration may not assess a penalty under this
2 subsection if:

3 1. The registration plates of the vehicle are returned to the
4 Administration within 10 days after the termination or lapse of the required security, as
5 shown by the records of the Administration; and

6 2. A. The certificate of title for the vehicle has been
7 transferred to a new owner;

8 B. The registered owner has moved out-of-state and the
9 registration plates are returned by mail;

10 C. A salvage certificate has been issued for the vehicle; or

11 D. A licensed dealer has taken possession of the vehicle with
12 an obligation to return the registration plates.

13 (v) Before the Administration may assess a penalty under this
14 subsection, the Administration shall first verify that the registration plates for the vehicle
15 were not returned to the Administration within 10 days after the termination or lapse of
16 the required security.

17 (2) (i) Except as provided under paragraph (3) of this subsection, a
18 penalty assessed under this subsection shall be paid as follows:

19 1. ~~A. {70%} FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, 50%~~ to be
20 allocated as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph; ~~{and}~~

21 ~~B. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR~~
22 ~~THEREAFTER, 70% TO BE ALLOCATED AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS~~
23 ~~PARAGRAPH;~~

24 2. 30% to the Administration, which may be used by the
25 Administration, subject to subsection (f) of this section, to provide funding for contracts
26 with independent agents to assist in the recovery of evidences of registration as authorized
27 in subsection (d)(3) of this section; ~~AND~~

28 ~~3. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, 20% TO THE MARYLAND~~
29 ~~AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND.~~

30 (ii) For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2014, the
31 percentage of the penalties specified under subparagraph (i)1 of this paragraph shall be
32 allocated among the Safe Schools Fund, the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund~~,~~ the Maryland
33 Automobile Insurance Fund, ~~and~~ and the General Fund as follows:

1. \$600,000 to the Safe Schools Fund;
2. \$2,000,000 to the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund; ~~AND~~
3. ~~¶~~To the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund, ~~the~~;

A. EXCEPT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER ITEM B C OF THIS ITEM, THE amount distributed to the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund in the prior fiscal year under the provisions of this paragraph adjusted by the change for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year in the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers – Medical Care as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics; ~~and~~

B. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025, THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND IN FISCAL YEAR 2023 UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH ADJUSTED BY THE CHANGE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR PRECEDING THE FISCAL YEAR IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – ALL URBAN CONSUMERS – MEDICAL CARE AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS 2024, THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH ADJUSTED BY THE CHANGE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR PRECEDING THE FISCAL YEAR IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – ALL URBAN CONSUMERS – MEDICAL CARE AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$2,000,000; AND

C. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025, THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED TO THE MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND CALCULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM A OF THIS ITEM EXCLUDING THE \$2,000,000 DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND IN FISCAL YEAR 2024; AND

- 4.¶ The balance to the General Fund.

(3) Beginning July 1, 2018, any uninsured motorist penalties the Administration receives under the Program to Incentivize and Enable Uninsured Vehicle Owners to Be Insured established under § 20–612 of the Insurance Article shall be paid to the Uninsured Division of the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund.

(4) If the Administration assesses a vehicle owner, co-owner, or lessee with a penalty under this subsection, the Administration may not take any of the following actions until the penalty is paid:

- (i) Reinstate a registration suspended under this subsection;

1 (ii) Except for a temporary registration as provided under §
2 13–602(a)(2) of this article, issue a new registration for any vehicle that is owned,
3 co-owned, or leased by that person and is titled after the violation date; or

4 (iii) Renew a registration for a vehicle that is owned, co-owned, or
5 leased by that person.

6 (5) (i) In this paragraph, “family member” means any individual whose
7 relationship to the vehicle owner is one of those listed under § 13–810(c)(1) of this article
8 as being exempt from paying the excise tax imposed on the transfer of a vehicle.

9 (ii) The monetary penalties provided in this subsection may not be
10 avoided by transferring title to the vehicle.

11 (iii) Except as provided in paragraph (1)(iv) and (v) of this subsection,
12 regardless of whether money or other valuable consideration is involved in the transfer, if
13 title to a vehicle is transferred by an individual who has violated this subtitle to a family
14 member, any suspension of the vehicle’s registration that occurred before the transfer shall
15 continue as if no transfer had occurred and a new registration may not be issued until the
16 penalty fee is paid.

17 (6) An amount equal to the monetary penalties paid to the Administration
18 under paragraph (2) of this subsection may be used by the Administration only for the
19 enforcement of this subtitle.

20 ~~(f) From the amount distributed to the Administration under subsection~~
21 ~~[(c)(2)(i)2] (E)(2)(1)3 of this section, expenditures to fund contracts entered into under~~
22 ~~subsection (d)(3) of this section;~~

23 ~~(1) May not exceed \$1,000,000 in any fiscal year; and~~

24 ~~(2) May be made only:~~

25 ~~(i) Pursuant to an appropriation approved by the General Assembly~~
26 ~~in the annual State budget; or~~

27 ~~(ii) Through the budget amendment procedure provided for in §~~
28 ~~7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, provided that:~~

29 ~~1. The budget amendment and supporting information have~~
30 ~~been submitted to the budget committees for review and comment; and~~

31 ~~2. At least 45 days have elapsed from the time the budget~~
32 ~~amendment and supporting information were submitted to the budget committees.~~

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
34 1, 2023.