

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 788

An act relating to unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive trade practices; amending s. 626.9541, F.S.; prohibiting certain insurers from specified discriminatory acts based upon an applicant or insureds having been or likelihood to become a victim of specified abuse; providing exceptions; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section 626.9541, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.9541 Unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices defined.—

(1) UNFAIR METHODS OF COMPETITION AND UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS.—The following are defined as unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices:

(g) Unfair discrimination.—

1. Knowingly making or permitting any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same actuarially supportable class and equal expectation of life, in the rates charged for any life insurance or annuity contract, in the dividends or other benefits payable thereon, or in any other of the terms and conditions of such contract.

2. Knowingly making or permitting any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same actuarially supportable class and essentially the same hazard, in the amount of premium, policy fees, or rates charged for any policy or contract of accident, disability, or health insurance, in the benefits payable thereunder, in any of the terms or conditions of such contract, or in any other manner whatever.

3. For a health insurer, life insurer, disability insurer, property and casualty insurer, automobile insurer, or managed care provider to underwrite a policy, or refuse to issue, reissue, or renew a policy, refuse to pay a claim, cancel or otherwise terminate a policy, or increase rates based ~~solely~~ upon the fact that an insured or applicant who is also the proposed insured has made a claim or sought or should have sought medical or psychological treatment in the past for abuse, protection from abuse, or shelter from abuse, or that a claim was caused in the past by, or might occur as a result of, any future assault, battery, or sexual assault by a family or household member upon another family or household member as defined in s. 741.28(2). A health insurer, life insurer, disability insurer, or managed care provider ~~An insurer~~ may refuse to underwrite, issue, or renew a policy based on the applicant's medical condition, but shall not consider whether such condition was caused by an act of abuse. For purposes of this section, the term "abuse" means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts:

- a. Attempting or committing assault, battery, sexual assault, or sexual battery;
- b. Placing another in fear of imminent serious bodily injury by physical menace;
- c. False imprisonment;
- d. Physically or sexually abusing a minor child; or
- e. An act of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28.

This subparagraph does not prohibit a property and casualty insurer or an automobile insurer from excluding coverage for intentional acts by the insured if such exclusion does not constitute an act of unfair discrimination as defined in this paragraph.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2001.