Session of 2015

HOUSE BILL No. 2241

By Committee on Insurance

2-5

1 AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to property and casualty 2 insurance; pertaining to the unfair trade practice law; prohibiting the 3 cancellation or nonrenewal of policies due to claims arising from 4 natural causes; amending K.S.A. 40-2,122 and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 40-5 2404 and repealing the existing sections.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

8 Section 1. K.S.A. 40-2,122 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-9 2,122. (a) Any insurance company doing business in this state shall provide to an insured a written explanation specifically detailing the 10 reasons why such company canceled or denied renewal of an existing 11 12 policy of insurance. There shall be no liability on the part of and no cause 13 of action of any nature shall arise against any insurer, its authorized 14 representative, its agents, its employees, or any firm, person or corporation 15 furnishing to the insurer information as to reasons for cancellation or 16 denial of renewal of an existing policy of insurance, for any statement 17 made by any of them in any written notice of cancellation or denial of 18 renewal of an existing policy of insurance, for the providing of 19 information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence 20 submitted at any hearings conducted in connection therewith, if such 21 information was provided in good faith and without malice.

(b) (1) An insurance company shall not cancel or deny renewal of
any property and casualty insurance policy issued or renewed in this state
on or after July 1, 2015, based solely on claims arising from natural
causes.

(2) "Natural cause" means an act occasioned exclusively by the
violence of nature where all human agency is excluded from creating or
entering into the cause of the damage or injury.

29 (3) Any insurer which violates the provisions of this subsection shall
30 be deemed to have violated the unfair trade practice law.

31 (c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurance company from 32 canceling or denying renewal of a property and casualty insurance policy in the event of a claim arising from natural causes if there are additional 33 34 substantial reasons for such action such as concealment. 35 misrepresentation or fraud by the insured relating to such property and 36 casualty policy, whether before or after any claim.

1 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 40-2404 is hereby amended to read as 2 follows: 40-2404. The following are hereby defined as unfair methods of 3 competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the business of 4 insurance:

5 (1) *Misrepresentations and false advertising of insurance policies.* 6 Making, issuing, circulating or causing to be made, issued or circulated, 7 any estimate, illustration, circular, statement, sales presentation, omission 8 or comparison which:

9 (a) Misrepresents the benefits, advantages, conditions or terms of any 10 insurance policy;

(b) misrepresents the dividends or share of the surplus to be receivedon any insurance policy;

(c) makes any false or misleading statements as to the dividends orshare of surplus previously paid on any insurance policy;

15 (d) is misleading or is a misrepresentation as to the financial 16 condition of any person, or as to the legal reserve system upon which any 17 life insurer operates;

(e) uses any name or title of any insurance policy or class ofinsurance policies misrepresenting the true nature thereof;

20 (f) is a misrepresentation for the purpose of inducing or tending to 21 induce the lapse, forfeiture, exchange, conversion or surrender of any 22 insurance policy;

(g) is a misrepresentation for the purpose of effecting a pledge orassignment of or effecting a loan against any insurance policy; or

(h) misrepresents any insurance policy as being shares of stock.

(2) False information and advertising generally. Making, publishing, 26 disseminating, circulating or placing before the public, or causing, directly 27 or indirectly, to be made, published, disseminated, circulated or placed 28 29 before the public, in a newspaper, magazine or other publication, or in the form of a notice, circular, pamphlet, letter or poster, or over any radio or 30 television station, or in any other way, an advertisement, announcement or 31 statement containing any assertion, misrepresentation or statement with 32 respect to the business of insurance or with respect to any person in the 33 34 conduct of such person's insurance business, which is untrue, deceptive or 35 misleading.

36 (3) *Defamation.* Making, publishing, disseminating or circulating, 37 directly or indirectly, or aiding, abetting or encouraging the making, 38 publishing, disseminating or circulating of any oral or written statement or 39 any pamphlet, circular, article or literature which is false, or maliciously 40 critical of or derogatory to the financial condition of any person, and 41 which is calculated to injure such person.

42 (4) *Boycott, coercion and intimidation.* Entering into any agreement 43 to commit, or by any concerted action committing, any act of boycott,

coercion or intimidation resulting in or tending to result in unreasonable restraint of the business of insurance, or by any act of boycott, coercion or

restraint of the business of insurance, or by any act of boycott, coercion or
intimidation monopolizing or attempting to monopolize any part of the
business of insurance.

5 (5) *False statements and entries.* (a) Knowingly filing with any 6 supervisory or other public official, or knowingly making, publishing, 7 disseminating, circulating or delivering to any person, or placing before 8 the public, or knowingly causing directly or indirectly, to be made, 9 published, disseminated, circulated, delivered to any person, or placed 10 before the public, any false material statement of fact as to the financial 11 condition of a person.

(b) Knowingly making any false entry of a material fact in any book,
report or statement of any person or knowingly omitting to make a true
entry of any material fact pertaining to the business of such person in any
book, report or statement of such person.

16 (6) *Stock operations and advisory board contracts.* Issuing or 17 delivering or permitting agents, officers or employees to issue or deliver, 18 agency company stock or other capital stock, or benefit certificates or 19 shares in any common-law corporation, or securities or any special or 20 advisory board contracts or other contracts of any kind promising returns 21 and profits as an inducement to insurance. Nothing herein shall prohibit 22 the acts permitted by K.S.A. 40-232, and amendments thereto.

(7) Unfair discrimination. (a) Making or permitting any unfair
 discrimination between individuals of the same class and equal expectation
 of life in the rates charged for any contract of life insurance or life annuity
 or in the dividends or other benefits payable thereon, or in any other of the
 terms and conditions of such contract.

(b) Making or permitting any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class and of essentially the same hazard in the amount of premium, policy fees or rates charged for any policy or contract of accident or health insurance or in the benefits payable thereunder, or in any of the terms or conditions of such contract, or in any other manner whatever.

34 (c) Refusing to insure, or refusing to continue to insure, or limiting 35 the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to an individual, or 36 charging an individual a different rate for the same coverage solely 37 because of blindness or partial blindness. With respect to all other 38 conditions, including the underlying cause of the blindness or partial 39 blindness, persons who are blind or partially blind shall be subject to the 40 same standards of sound actuarial principles or actual or reasonably 41 anticipated experience as are sighted persons. Refusal to insure includes denial by an insurer of disability insurance coverage on the grounds that 42 the policy defines "disability" as being presumed in the event that the 43

insured loses such person's eyesight. However, an insurer may exclude
 from coverage disabilities consisting solely of blindness or partial
 blindness when such condition existed at the time the policy was issued.

4 (d) Refusing to insure, or refusing to continue to insure, or limiting 5 the amount, extent or kind of coverage available for accident and health 6 and life insurance to an applicant who is the proposed insured or charge a 7 different rate for the same coverage or excluding or limiting coverage for 8 losses or denying a claim incurred by an insured as a result of abuse based 9 on the fact that the applicant who is the proposed insured is, has been, or may be the subject of domestic abuse, except as provided in subpart (v). 10 "Abuse" as used in this subsection (7)(d) means one or more acts defined 11 in-subsection (a) or (b) of K.S.A. 60-3102(a) or (b), and amendments 12 thereto, between family members, current or former household members, 13 or current or former intimate partners. 14

(i) An insurer may not ask an applicant for life or accident and health
insurance who is the proposed insured if the individual is, has been or may
be the subject of domestic abuse or seeks, has sought or had reason to seek
medical or psychological treatment or counseling specifically for abuse,
protection from abuse or shelter from abuse.

(ii) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person
from declining to issue an insurance policy insuring the life of an
individual who is, has been or has the potential to be the subject of abuse if
the perpetrator of the abuse is the applicant or would be the owner of the
insurance policy.

(iii) No insurer that issues a life or accident and health policy to an
individual who is, has been or may be the subject of domestic abuse shall
be subject to civil or criminal liability for the death or any injuries suffered
by that individual as a result of domestic abuse.

(iv) No person shall refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure, limit the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to an individual or charge a different rate for the same coverage solely because of physical or mental condition, except where the refusal, limitation or rate differential is based on sound actuarial principles.

(v) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person
 from underwriting or rating a risk on the basis of a preexisting physical or
 mental condition, even if such condition has been caused by abuse,
 provided that:

(A) The person routinely underwrites or rates such condition in the
 same manner with respect to an insured or an applicant who is not a victim
 of abuse;

41 (B) the fact that an individual is, has been or may be the subject of 42 abuse may not be considered a physical or mental condition; and

43 (C) such underwriting or rating is not used to evade the intent of this

1 section or any other provision of the Kansas insurance code.

(vi) Any person who underwrites or rates a risk on the basis of
preexisting physical or mental condition as set forth in subsection (7)(d)
(v), shall treat such underwriting or rating as an adverse underwriting
decision pursuant to K.S.A. 40-2,112, and amendments thereto.

6 (vii) The provisions of subsection (d) shall apply to all policies of life 7 and accident and health insurance issued in this state after the effective 8 date of this act and all existing contracts which are renewed on or after the 9 effective date of this act.

10 (8) Rebates. (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, knowingly permitting, offering to make or making any contract of life 11 insurance, life annuity or accident and health insurance, or agreement as to 12 such contract other than as plainly expressed in the insurance contract 13 issued thereon; paying, allowing, giving or offering to pay, allow or give, 14 directly or indirectly, as inducement to such insurance, or annuity, any 15 16 rebate of premiums payable on the contract, any special favor or advantage 17 in the dividends or other benefits thereon, or any valuable consideration or 18 inducement whatever not specified in the contract; or giving, selling, 19 purchasing or offering to give, sell or purchase as inducement to such 20 insurance contract or annuity or in connection therewith, any stocks, bonds 21 or other securities of any insurance company or other corporation, 22 association or partnership, or any dividends or profits accrued thereon, or 23 anything of value whatsoever not specified in the contract.

(b) Nothing in subsection (7) or (8)(a) shall be construed as including
within the definition of discrimination or rebates any of the following
practices:

(i) In the case of any contract of life insurance or life annuity, paying
bonuses to policyholders or otherwise abating their premiums in whole or
in part out of surplus accumulated from nonparticipating insurance. Any
such bonuses or abatement of premiums shall be fair and equitable to
policyholders and for the best interests of the company and its
policyholders;

(ii) in the case of life insurance policies issued on the industrial debit
plan, making allowance to policyholders who have continuously for a
specified period made premium payments directly to an office of the
insurer in an amount which fairly represents the saving in collection
expenses; or

(iii) readjustment of the rate of premium for a group insurance policy
based on the loss or expense experience thereunder, at the end of the first
or any subsequent policy year of insurance thereunder, which may be
made retroactive only for such policy year.

42 (9) Unfair claim settlement practices. It is an unfair claim settlement
 43 practice if any of the following or any rules and regulations pertaining

1 thereto are: (A) Committed flagrantly and in conscious disregard of such

provisions; or (B) committed with such frequency as to indicate a general
business practice.

4 (a) Misrepresenting pertinent facts or insurance policy provisions 5 relating to coverages at issue;

6 (b) failing to acknowledge and act reasonably promptly upon 7 communications with respect to claims arising under insurance policies;

8 (c) failing to adopt and implement reasonable standards for the 9 prompt investigation of claims arising under insurance policies;

10 (d) refusing to pay claims without conducting a reasonable 11 investigation based upon all available information;

(e) failing to affirm or deny coverage of claims within a reasonable
 time after proof of loss statements have been completed;

14 (f) not attempting in good faith to effectuate prompt, fair and 15 equitable settlements of claims in which liability has become reasonably 16 clear;

(g) compelling insureds to institute litigation to recover amounts due
under an insurance policy by offering substantially less than the amounts
ultimately recovered in actions brought by such insureds;

(h) attempting to settle a claim for less than the amount to which a
reasonable person would have believed that such person was entitled by
reference to written or printed advertising material accompanying or made
part of an application;

(i) attempting to settle claims on the basis of an application which
 was altered without notice to, or knowledge or consent of the insured;

(j) making claims payments to insureds or beneficiaries not
 accompanied by a statement setting forth the coverage under which
 payments are being made;

(k) making known to insureds or claimants a policy of appealing from
 arbitration awards in favor of insureds or claimants for the purpose of
 compelling them to accept settlements or compromises less than the
 amount awarded in arbitration;

(1) delaying the investigation or payment of claims by requiring an
insured, claimant or the physician of either to submit a preliminary claim
report and then requiring the subsequent submission of formal proof of
loss forms, both of which submissions contain substantially the same
information;

(m) failing to promptly settle claims, where liability has become
 reasonably clear, under one portion of the insurance policy coverage in
 order to influence settlements under other portions of the insurance policy
 coverage; or

42 (n) failing to promptly provide a reasonable explanation of the basis43 in the insurance policy in relation to the facts or applicable law for denial

1 of a claim or for the offer of a compromise settlement.

2 (10) Failure to maintain complaint handling procedures. Failure of 3 any person, who is an insurer on an insurance policy, to maintain a 4 complete record of all the complaints which it has received since the date of its last examination under K.S.A. 40-222, and amendments thereto; but 5 6 no such records shall be required for complaints received prior to the 7 effective date of this act. The record shall indicate the total number of 8 complaints, their classification by line of insurance, the nature of each 9 complaint, the disposition of the complaints, the date each complaint was 10 originally received by the insurer and the date of final disposition of each complaint. For purposes of this subsection, "complaint" means any written 11 12 communication primarily expressing a grievance related to the acts and 13 practices set out in this section.

(11) *Misrepresentation in insurance applications*. Making false or
 fraudulent statements or representations on or relative to an application for
 an insurance policy, for the purpose of obtaining a fee, commission,
 money or other benefit from any insurer, agent, broker or individual.

18 (12) *Statutory violations*. Any violation of any of the provisions of 19 K.S.A. 40-216, 40-2,122(b), 40-276a, 40-2,155 or 40-1515, and 20 amendments thereto.

(13) Disclosure of information relating to adverse underwriting
 decisions and refund of premiums. Failing to comply with the provisions of
 K.S.A. 40-2,112, and amendments thereto, within the time prescribed in
 such section.

(14) Rebates and other inducements in title insurance. (a) No title 25 insurance company or title insurance agent, or any officer, employee, 26 attorney, agent or solicitor thereof, may pay, allow or give, or offer to pay, 27 28 allow or give, directly or indirectly, as an inducement to obtaining any title 29 insurance business, any rebate, reduction or abatement of any rate or 30 charge made incident to the issuance of such insurance, any special favor 31 or advantage not generally available to others of the same classification, or 32 any money, thing of value or other consideration or material inducement. 33 The words "charge made incident to the issuance of such insurance" 34 includes, without limitations, escrow, settlement and closing charges.

35 (b) No insured named in a title insurance policy or contract nor any 36 other person directly or indirectly connected with the transaction involving 37 the issuance of the policy or contract, including, but not limited to, 38 mortgage lender, real estate broker, builder, attorney or any officer, 39 employee, agent representative or solicitor thereof, or any other person 40 may knowingly receive or accept, directly or indirectly, any rebate, 41 reduction or abatement of any charge, or any special favor or advantage or 42 any monetary consideration or inducement referred to in (14)(a).

43 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting:

(i) The payment of reasonable fees for services actually rendered to a 1 2 title insurance agent in connection with a title insurance transaction;

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(ii) the payment of an earned commission to a duly appointed title insurance agent for services actually performed in the issuance of the 4 5 policy of title insurance; or

6 (iii) the payment of reasonable entertainment and advertising 7 expenses.

8 (d) Nothing in this section prohibits the division of rates and charges 9 between or among a title insurance company and its agent, or one or more title insurance companies and one or more title insurance agents, if such 10 division of rates and charges does not constitute an unlawful rebate under 11 the provisions of this section and is not in payment of a forwarding fee or a 12 13 finder's fee.

14 (e) As used in paragraphs (e) through (i)(7) of this subpart, unless the 15 context otherwise requires:

16 "Associate" means any firm, association, organization, partnership, (i) 17 business trust, corporation or other legal entity organized for profit in which a producer of title business is a director, officer or partner thereof, 18 19 or owner of a financial interest; the spouse or any relative within the 20 second degree by blood or marriage of a producer of title business who is a 21 natural person; any director, officer or employee of a producer of title 22 business or associate; any legal entity that controls, is controlled by, or is 23 under common control with a producer of title business or associate; and any natural person or legal entity with whom a producer of title business or 24 25 associate has any agreement, arrangement or understanding or pursues any course of conduct, the purpose or effect of which is to evade the provisions 26 of this section. 27

(ii) "Financial interest" means any direct or indirect interest, legal or 28 29 beneficial, where the holder thereof is or will be entitled to 1% or more of the net profits or net worth of the entity in which such interest is held. 30 31 Notwithstanding the foregoing, an interest of less than 1% or any other type of interest shall constitute a "financial interest" if the primary purpose 32 of the acquisition or retention of that interest is the financial benefit to be 33 34 obtained as a consequence of that interest from the referral of title 35 business.

36 (iii) "Person" means any natural person, partnership, association, 37 cooperative, corporation, trust or other legal entity.

38 (iv) "Producer of title business" or "producer" means any person, 39 including any officer, director or owner of 5% or more of the equity or capital or both of any person, engaged in this state in the trade, business, 40 41 occupation or profession of: 42

(A) Buying or selling interests in real property;

43 (B) making loans secured by interests in real property; or

1 (C) acting as broker, agent, representative or attorney for a person 2 who buys or sells any interest in real property or who lends or borrows 3 money with such interest as security.

4 (v) "Refer" means to direct or cause to be directed or to exercise any 5 power or influence over the direction of title insurance business, whether 6 or not the consent or approval of any other person is sought or obtained 7 with respect to the referral.

8 (f) No title insurer or title agent may accept any order for, issue a title 9 insurance policy to, or provide services to, an applicant if it knows or has 10 reason to believe that the applicant was referred to it by any producer of title business or by any associate of such producer, where the producer, the 11 12 associate, or both, have a financial interest in the title insurer or title agent 13 to which business is referred unless the producer has disclosed to the 14 buyer, seller and lender the financial interest of the producer of title business or associate referring the title insurance business. 15

16 (g) No title insurer or title agent may accept an order for title 17 insurance business, issue a title insurance policy, or receive or retain any premium, or charge in connection with any transaction if: (i) The title 18 19 insurer or title agent knows or has reason to believe that the transaction 20 will constitute controlled business for that title insurer or title agent; and 21 (ii) 70% or more of the closed title orders of that title insurer or title agent 22 during the 12 full calendar months immediately preceding the month in 23 which the transaction takes place is derived from controlled business. The 24 prohibitions contained in this subparagraph shall not apply to transactions 25 involving real estate located in a county that has a population, as shown by the last preceding decennial census, of 10,000 or less. 26

27 (h) Within 90 days following the end of each business year, as 28 established by the title insurer or title agent, each title insurer or title agent shall file with the department of insurance and any title insurer with which 29 30 the title agent maintains an underwriting agreement, a report executed by 31 the title insurer's or title agent's chief executive officer or designee, under 32 penalty of perjury, stating the percent of closed title orders originating 33 from controlled business. The failure of a title insurer or title agent to 34 comply with the requirements of this section, at the discretion of the 35 commissioner, shall be grounds for the suspension or revocation of a 36 license or other disciplinary action, with the commissioner able to mitigate 37 any such disciplinary action if the title insurer or title agent is found to be 38 in substantial compliance with competitive behavior as defined by federal 39 housing and urban development statement of policy 1996-2.

40 (i) (1) No title insurer or title agent may accept any title insurance 41 order or issue a title insurance policy to any person if it knows or has 42 reason to believe that such person was referred to it by any producer of 43 title business or by any associate of such producer, where the producer, the

1 associate, or both, have a financial interest in the title insurer or title agent to which business is referred unless the producer has disclosed in writing 2 3 to the person so referred the fact that such producer or associate has a 4 financial interest in the title insurer or title agent, the nature of the 5 financial interest and a written estimate of the charge or range of charges 6 generally made by the title insurer or agent for the title services. Such 7 disclosure shall include language stating that the consumer is not obligated 8 to use the title insurer or agent in which the referring producer or associate 9 has a financial interest and shall include the names and telephone numbers 10 of not less than three other title insurers or agents which operate in the county in which the property is located. If fewer than three insurers or 11 12 agents operate in that county, the disclosure shall include all title insurers 13 or agents operating in that county. Such written disclosure shall be signed by the person so referred and must have occurred prior to any commitment 14 15 having been made to such title insurer or agent.

16 (2) No producer of title business or associate of such producer shall 17 require, directly or indirectly, as a condition to selling or furnishing any 18 other person any loan or extension thereof, credit, sale, property, contract, 19 lease or service, that such other person shall purchase title insurance of any 20 kind through any title agent or title insurer if such producer has a financial 21 interest in such title agent or title insurer.

(3) No title insurer or title agent may accept any title insurance order or issue a title insurance policy to any person it knows or has reason to believe that the name of the title company was pre-printed in the sales contract, prior to the buyer or seller selecting that title company.

(4) Nothing in this subpart (i) shall prohibit any producer of title business or associate of such producer from referring title business to any title insurer or title agent of such producer's or associate's choice, and, if such producer or associate of such producer has any financial interest in the title insurer, from receiving income, profits or dividends produced or realized from such financial interest, so long as:

(a) Such financial interest is disclosed to the purchaser of the title
 insurance in accordance with part (i)(1) through (4) of this subpart;

(b) the payment of income, profits or dividends is not in exchange forthe referral of business; and

(c) the receipt of income, profits or dividends constitutes only a returnon the investment of the producer or associate.

(5) Any producer of title business or associate of such producer who violates the provisions of paragraphs (i)(2) through (i)(4), or any title insurer or title agent who accepts an order for title insurance knowing that it is in violation of paragraphs (i)(2) through (i)(4), in addition to any other action which may be taken by the commissioner of insurance, shall be subject to a fine by the commissioner in an amount equal to five times the premium for the title insurance and, if licensed pursuant to K.S.A. 58-3034
 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall be deemed to have committed a
 prohibited act pursuant to K.S.A. 58-3602, and amendments thereto, and
 shall be liable to the purchaser of such title insurance in an amount equal
 to the premium for the title insurance.

6 (6) Any title insurer or title agent that is a competitor of any title 7 insurer or title agent that, subsequent to the effective date of this act, has 8 violated or is violating the provisions of subpart (i), shall have a cause of 9 action against such title insurer or title agent and, upon establishing the 10 existence of a violation of any such provision, shall be entitled, in addition to any other damages or remedies provided by law, to such equitable or 11 12 injunctive relief as the court deems proper. In any such action under this 13 subsection, the court may award to the successful party the court costs of the action together with reasonable attorney fees. 14

15 (7) The commissioner shall also require each title agent to provide 16 core title services as required by the real estate settlement procedures act.

(j) The commissioner shall adopt any regulations necessary to carryout the provisions of this act.

19 (15) Disclosure of nonpublic personal information. (a) No person 20 shall disclose any nonpublic personal information contrary to the 21 provisions of title V of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley act of 1999 (public law 22 106-102). The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations necessary to 23 carry out this section. Such rules and regulations shall be consistent with 24 and not more restrictive than the model regulation adopted on September 25 26, 2000, by the national association of insurance commissioners entitled 26 "Privacy of consumer financial and health information regulation."

(b) Any rules and regulations adopted by the commissioner which
implement article V of the model regulation adopted on September 26,
2000, by the national association of insurance commissioners entitled
"Privacy of consumer financial and health information regulation" shall
become effective on and after February 1, 2002.

(c) Nothing in this paragraph (15) shall be deemed or construed to authorize the promulgation or adoption of any regulation which preempts, supersedes or is inconsistent with any provision of Kansas law concerning requirements for notification of, or obtaining consent from, a parent, guardian or other legal custodian of a minor relating to any matter pertaining to the health and medical treatment for such minor.

38 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 40-2,122 and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 40-2404 are hereby 39 repealed.

40 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its 41 publication in the statute book.