S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6026

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

June 19, 2009

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of the Governor) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend chapter 266 of the laws of 1986, amending the civil practice law and rules and other laws relating to malpractice and professional medical conduct, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 40 of chapter 266 of the laws of 1986, amending the civil practice law and rules and other laws relating to malpractice and professional medical conduct, as amended by section 1 of part D of chapter 497 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

S 40. The superintendent of insurance shall establish rates for policies providing coverage for physicians and surgeons medical malpractice for the periods commencing July 1, 1985 and ending June 30, 2011; provided, however, that notwithstanding any other provision of law, the superintendent shall not establish or approve any increase in rates for the period commencing July 1, [2008] 2009 and ending June 30, [2009] 2010. The superintendent shall direct insurers to establish segregated accounts for premiums, payments, reserves and investment income attributable to such premium periods and shall require periodic reports by the insurers regarding claims and expenses attributable to such periods to monitor whether such accounts will be sufficient to meet incurred claims and expenses. On or after July 1, 1989, the superintendent shall impose a surcharge on premiums to satisfy a projected deficiency that is attributable to the premium levels established pursuant to this section for such periods; provided, however, that such annual surcharge shall not exceed eight percent of the established rate until July 1, 2011, at which time and thereafter such surcharge shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the approved adequate rate, and that such annual surcharges shall continue for such period of time as shall be sufficient to satisfy

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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such deficiency. The superintendent shall not impose such surcharge during the period commencing July 1, [2008] 2009 and ending June 30, [2009] 2010. On and after July 1, 1989, the surcharge prescribed by this section shall be retained by insurers to the extent that they insured physicians and surgeons during the July 1, 1985 through June 30, 2011 policy periods; in the event and to the extent physicians and surgeons were insured by another insurer during such periods, all or a pro rata share of the surcharge, as the case may be, shall be remitted to such other insurer in accordance with rules and regulations to be promulgated by the superintendent. Surcharges collected from physicians and surgeons who were not insured during such policy periods shall be apportioned among all insurers in proportion to the premium written by each insurer during such policy periods; if a physician or surgeon was insured by an insurer subject to rates established by the superintendent during such policy periods, and at any time thereafter a hospital, health maintenance organization, employer or institution is responsible for responding in damages for liability arising out of such physician's or surgeon's practice of medicine, such responsible entity shall also remit to such prior insurer the equivalent amount that would then be collected as a surcharge if the physician or surgeon had continued to remain insured by such prior insurer. In the event any insurer that provided coverage during such policy periods is in liquidation, the property/casualty insurance security fund shall receive the portion of surcharges to which the insurer in liquidation would have been entitled. The surcharges authorized herein shall be deemed to be income earned for the purposes of section 2303 of the insurance law. The superintendent, in establishing adequate rates and in determining any projected deficiency pursuant to the requirements of this section and the insurance law, shall give substantial weight, determined in his discretion and judgment, to the prospective anticipated effect of any regulations promulgated and laws enacted and the public benefit of stabilizing malpractice rates and minimizing rate level fluctuation during the period of time necessary for the development of more reliable statistical experience as to the efficacy of such laws and regulations affecting medical, dental or podiatric malpractice enacted or promulgated in 1985, 1986, by this act and at any other time. Notwithstanding any provision of the insurance law, rates already established and to be established by the superintendent pursuant to this section are deemed adequate if such rates would be adequate when taken together with the maximum authorized annual surcharges to be imposed for a reasonable period of time whether or not any such annual surcharge has been actually imposed as of the establishment of such rates.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.