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I N   S E N A T E

March 12, 2012

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Introduced by Sen. SEWARD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to requiring arbitration for no fault claims under the comprehensive motor vehicle reparations act

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

1     Section 1.     Subsection (b) of section 5106 of the insurance law, as  
2 amended by chapter 452 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as  
3 follows:  
4     (b) [Every insurer shall provide a claimant with the option of submit-  
5 ting any dispute] ALL DISPUTES involving the insurer's liability to pay  
6 first party benefits, or additional first party benefits, the amount  
7 thereof or any other matter which may arise pursuant to subsection (a)  
8 of this section SHALL BE SUBMITTED to arbitration pursuant to simplified  
9 procedures to be promulgated or approved by the superintendent. Such  
10 simplified procedures shall include an expedited eligibility hearing  
11 option, when required, to designate the insurer for first party benefits  
12 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. The expedited eligibility  
13 hearing option shall be a forum for eligibility disputes only, and shall  
14 not include the submission of any particular bill, payment or claim for  
15 any specific benefit for adjudication, nor shall it consider any other  
16 defense to payment.  
17     S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all  
18 actions and proceedings commenced on or after such date; and shall also  
19 apply to any action or proceeding which was commenced prior to such  
20 effective date where, as of such date, a trial of the issues has not yet  
21 commenced.

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

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