

3286--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 31, 2013

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Introduced by Sens. O'MARA, DeFRANCISCO, RANZENHOFER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to establishing residential home safety and loss prevention courses and providing for an associated reduction in certain insurance premiums and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1     Section 1. Section 2346 of the insurance law is amended by adding a  
2     new subsection 5 to read as follows:  
3     5. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL PROVIDE FOR AN ACTUARIALLY APPROPRIATE  
4     REDUCTION IN THE RATES OF FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUMS OR HOMEOWNERS INSUR-  
5     ANCE PREMIUMS APPLICABLE TO RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY FOR ANY INSURED  
6     FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING A RESIDENTIAL HOME  
7     SAFETY AND LOSS PREVENTION COURSE CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO  
8     THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX-B OF THIS ARTICLE.  
9     S 2. The insurance law is amended by adding a new section 2346-b to  
10    read as follows:  
11    S 2346-B. CERTIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL HOME SAFETY AND LOSS PREVENTION  
12    COURSES. (A) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF FIRE  
13    PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGEN-  
14    CY SERVICES AND ANY ADDITIONAL STATE ENTITY IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE, SHALL  
15    CERTIFY ALL RESIDENTIAL HOME SAFETY AND LOSS PREVENTION COURSES THAT ARE  
16    AUTHORIZED TO OFFER CLASSES THROUGH WHICH THE INSURED SHALL BE ELIGIBLE  
17    TO RECEIVE AN INSURANCE PREMIUM REDUCTION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION FIVE OF  
18    SECTION TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX OF THIS ARTICLE.  
19    (B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:  
20    (1) "RESIDENTIAL HOME SAFETY AND LOSS PREVENTION COURSE" OR "COURSE"  
21    SHALL MEAN AN INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM THAT PRESENTS INFORMATION AND METH-  
22    ODS THAT CAN HELP AN INSURED TO SIGNIFICANTLY PREVENT OR MINIMIZE  
23    PERSONAL INJURIES AND PROPERTY LOSSES IN RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY DUE  
24    TO THE OCCURRENCE OF FIRE, THEFT, BURGLARY, ACCIDENTS AND WEATHER

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

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1 RELATED EVENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, HOW TO MITIGATE PROPERTY  
2 DAMAGE FROM HURRICANES, ICE STORMS, TORNADOES AND OTHER NATURAL DISAS-  
3 TERS; AND

4 (2) "COURSE SPONSOR" SHALL MEAN ANY INDIVIDUAL, COMPANY OR ORGANIZA-  
5 TION THAT HAS DEVELOPED OR OWNS A RESIDENTIAL HOME SAFETY AND LOSS  
6 PREVENTION COURSE AND ALL AGENTS OF SUCH SPONSOR INCLUDING INDEPENDENT  
7 CONTRACTORS THAT CONDUCT CLASSES FOR SUCH SPONSOR AND CLASS INSTRUCTORS.

8 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS AS ARE  
9 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION. SUCH RULES SHALL,  
10 AT A MINIMUM, PROVIDE FOR:

11 (1) COURSE SPONSOR APPLICATION PROCEDURES THAT AN APPLICANT SHALL  
12 FOLLOW TO OBTAIN COURSE CERTIFICATION APPROVAL;

13 (2) CURRICULUM STANDARDS THAT THE COURSE SPONSORS AND INSTRUCTORS  
14 SHALL UTILIZE, BASED UPON SUBMISSIONS FROM ANY COURSE SPONSOR AS DEFINED  
15 IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING TEACHING  
16 METHODS AND TIME REQUIREMENTS WHICH SHALL BE IN EXCESS OF THREE HOURS;

17 (3) STANDARDS, BASED UPON SUBMISSIONS FROM ANY COURSE SPONSOR AS  
18 DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THAT COURSE  
19 SPONSORS SHALL SATISFY TO ENSURE THAT CLASS INSTRUCTORS ARE ADEQUATELY  
20 TRAINED;

21 (4) A DEMONSTRATION BY THE COURSE SPONSOR THAT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING  
22 SUCH COURSE WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE FIRE, THEFT, LIABILITY AND WEATHER  
23 RELATED LOSSES IN THE RESIDENCE;

24 (5) STANDARDS, BASED UPON SUBMISSIONS FROM ANY COURSE SPONSOR AS  
25 DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, TO ENSURE  
26 THAT INDIVIDUALS THAT COMPLETE SUCH COURSE SHALL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES  
27 THAT CAN BE SUBMITTED TO AN INSURER TO DEMONSTRATE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION  
28 OF THE CLASS. SUCH CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION SHALL BE TAMPER PROOF AND  
29 DESIGNED SO THAT THEY CAN NOT BE FRAUDULENTLY REPRODUCED OR FORGED BY AN  
30 UNAUTHORIZED ISSUER; AND

31 (6) PROCEDURES FOR ON-GOING SURVEILLANCE OF COURSE PRESENTATION AND  
32 ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THAT THE INSURANCE PREMIUM REDUCTION AWARDED  
33 IS, AND CONTINUES TO BE, PROPORTIONALLY RELATED TO THE ACTUARIALLY  
34 CALCULABLE DECREASE IN LOSSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE COURSE.

35 (D) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SUSPEND OR REVOKE THE CERTIFICATE  
36 OF APPROVAL OF ANY COURSE SPONSOR IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT SUCH  
37 SPONSOR HAS VIOLATED THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION OR HAS MISREPRE-  
38 SENTED INFORMATION ON THE INITIAL APPLICATION OR IN PERIODIC REPORTS  
39 SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

40 (E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY INCREASE OR DECREASE THE INSURANCE PREMIUM  
41 DISCOUNT AWARDED TO SUCH COURSE IF IT IS FOUND THAT SUCH DISCOUNT IS NOT  
42 ACTUARIALLY APPROPRIATE.

43 S 3. Not less than 180 days before the expiration of the provision of  
44 this act, the superintendent of financial services shall issue a report  
45 to the governor, temporary president of the senate, speaker of the  
46 assembly, and the chairs of the committees on insurance of the senate  
47 and assembly stating his or her findings on the effect of residential  
48 home safety and loss prevention courses in reducing homeowners insurance  
49 claims.

50 S 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
51 it shall have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed 5  
52 years after such effective date; provided, however, any rules or regu-  
53 lations necessary for the timely implementation of the provisions of  
54 this act shall be promulgated on or before such date.