

2948

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 20, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Labor

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to providing  
conditional renewal notices to policyholders

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

1     Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 54 of the workers' compensation  
2     law, as amended by section 23 of part GG of chapter 57 of the laws of  
3     2013, is amended to read as follows:  
4     5. Cancellation, *CONDITIONAL RENEWAL* and termination of insurance  
5     contracts. No contract of insurance issued by an insurance carrier  
6     against liability arising under this chapter shall be cancelled within  
7     the time limited in such contract for its expiration unless notice is  
8     given as required by this section. When cancellation is due to non-pay-  
9     ment of premiums and assessments, such cancellation shall not be effec-  
10    tive until at least ten days after a notice of cancellation of such  
11    contract, on a date specified in such notice, shall be filed in the  
12    office of the chair and also served on the employer. When cancellation  
13    is due to any reason other than non-payment of premiums and assessments,  
14    such cancellation shall not be effective until at least thirty days  
15    after a notice of cancellation of such contract, on a date specified in  
16    such notice, shall be filed in the office of the chair and also served  
17    on the employer; provided, however, in either case, that if the employer  
18    has secured insurance with another insurance carrier which becomes  
19    effective prior to the expiration of the time stated in such notice, the  
20    cancellation shall be effective as of the date of such other coverage.  
21    No insurer shall refuse to renew any policy insuring against liability  
22    arising under this chapter unless at least thirty days prior to its  
23    expiration notice of intention not to renew has been filed in the office  
24    of the chair and also served on the employer.

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

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1 Such notice shall be served on the employer by delivering it to him,  
2 her or it or by sending it by mail, by certified or registered letter,  
3 return receipt requested, addressed to the employer at his, her or its  
4 last known place of business; provided that, if the employer be a part-  
5 nership, then such notice may be so given to any of one of the partners,  
6 and if the employer be a corporation then the notice may be given to any  
7 agent or officer of the corporation upon whom legal process may be  
8 served; and further provided that an employer may designate any person  
9 or entity at any address to receive such notice including the design-  
10 nation of one person or entity to receive notice on behalf of multiple  
11 entities insured under one insurance policy and that service of notice  
12 at the address so designated upon the person or entity so designated by  
13 delivery or by mail, by certified or registered letter, return receipt  
14 requested, shall satisfy the notice requirement of this section.  
15 Provided, however, the right to cancellation of a policy of insurance in  
16 the state fund shall be exercised only for non-payment of premiums and  
17 assessments or as provided in section ninety-four of this chapter.

18 A CONTRACT OF INSURANCE SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT SUBJECT  
19 TO THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS, LOSS COST MULTIPLIERS AND CLASSIFICA-  
20 TION OF THE EMPLOYER WITH REGARD TO THE PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS, PURSUANT  
21 TO SECTIONS FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIX AND FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED  
22 FOURTEEN OF THE INSURANCE LAW, UNLESS WRITTEN NOTICE IS MAILED OR DELIV-  
23 ERED BY THE CARRIER TO THE EMPLOYER, AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE POLICY,  
24 AND TO SUCH EMPLOYER'S AUTHORIZED AGENT OR BROKER, INDICATING THE CARRI-  
25 ER'S INTENTION TO CONDITION RENEWAL UPON INCREASED DEDUCTIBLE, CHANGE IN  
26 CLASSIFICATION WITH REGARD TO THE PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS THAT MAY RESULT  
27 IN A REDUCTION IN DIVIDENDS PAID, OR UPON INCREASED PREMIUMS IN EXCESS  
28 OF TEN PERCENT (EXCLUSIVE OF ANY PREMIUM INCREASE GENERATED AS A RESULT  
29 OF INCREASED LOSS COSTS FILED AND APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION  
30 (E) OF SECTION TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIVE OF THE INSURANCE LAW,  
31 INCREASED EXPOSURE UNITS, OR AS A RESULT OF EXPERIENCE RATING, LOSS  
32 RATING, RETROSPECTIVE RATING OR AUDIT). SUCH NOTICE SHALL BE MAILED OR  
33 DELIVERED AT LEAST SIXTY, BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY, DAYS IN  
34 ADVANCE OF THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE POLICY, AND SHALL CONTAIN THE  
35 SPECIFIC REASON OR REASONS FOR CONDITIONAL RENEWAL, SET FORTH THE AMOUNT  
36 OF ANY PREMIUM INCREASE (OR, WHERE SUCH AMOUNT CANNOT REASONABLY BE  
37 DETERMINED AS OF THE TIME THE NOTICE IS PROVIDED, A REASONABLE ESTIMATE  
38 OF THE PREMIUM INCREASED BASED UPON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE  
39 INSURANCE CARRIER AT THAT TIME), A REASONABLE ESTIMATE OF THE POTENTIAL  
40 REDUCTION IN DIVIDENDS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION, AND  
41 THE AMOUNT OF THE INCREASED DEDUCTIBLE. NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION WILL  
42 REQUIRE THE INSURANCE CARRIER TO PROVIDE SUCH NOTICE WHEN THE EMPLOYER,  
43 AN AGENT OR BROKER AUTHORIZED BY THE EMPLOYER, OR ANOTHER INSURANCE  
44 CARRIER OF THE EMPLOYER HAS MAILED OR DELIVERED WRITTEN NOTICE THAT THE  
45 POLICY HAS BEEN REPLACED OR IS NO LONGER DESIRED.

46 EVERY NOTICE MAILED OR DELIVERED BY AN INSURANCE CARRIER PURSUANT TO  
47 THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL ADVISE THE EMPLOYER AND SUCH EMPLOYER'S AUTHOR-  
48 IZED AGENT OR BROKER OF THE AVAILABILITY OF LOSS INFORMATION CONSISTENT  
49 WITH THIS SUBDIVISION UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY THE EMPLOYER OR SUCH  
50 EMPLOYER'S AUTHORIZED AGENT OR BROKER, THE INSURANCE CARRIER SHALL MAIL  
51 OR DELIVER LOSS INFORMATION COVERING THE PERIOD OF TIME COVERAGE HAS  
52 BEEN PROVIDED BY THE INSURANCE CARRIER, WITHIN TEN DAYS OF SUCH REQUEST.  
53 SUCH INFORMATION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON CLOSED AND OPEN CLAIMS AND  
54 ANY NOTICES OF OCCURRENCES, INCLUDING DATES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF OCCUR-  
55 RENCES AND AMOUNTS OF ANY PAYMENTS OR AMOUNTS HELD IN RESERVE FOR FUTURE  
56 PAYMENTS.

1 The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply with respect to  
2 policies containing coverage pursuant to subsection (j) of section three  
3 thousand four hundred twenty of the insurance law relating to every  
4 policy providing comprehensive personal liability insurance on a one,  
5 two, three or four family owner-occupied dwelling.  
6 In the event such cancellation or termination notice is not filed with  
7 the chair within the required time period, the chair shall impose a  
8 penalty in the amount of up to five hundred dollars for each ten-day  
9 period the insurance carrier or state insurance fund failed to file the  
10 notification. All penalties collected pursuant to this subdivision shall  
11 be deposited in the uninsured employers' fund.  
12 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
13 it shall have become a law, and shall apply to all policies issued or  
14 renewed on or after such effective date.