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2015-2016 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

Introduced by Sen. BRESLIN -- 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 enacting the "automobile insurance fraud prevention act of 2015"

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "automobile insurance fraud prevention act of 2015".

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3 S 2. Section 5106 of the insurance law, subsection (b) as amended and 4 subsection (d) as added by chapter 452 of the laws of 2005, is amended 5 to read as follows:

6 S 5106. Fair claims settlement. (a) (1) Payments of first party bene-7 and additional first party benefits shall be made as the loss is fits Such benefits are overdue if not paid within thirty days 8 incurred. after the claimant supplies proof of the fact and amount of loss 9 10 sustained. If proof is not supplied as to the entire claim, the amount which is supported by proof is overdue if not paid within thirty days 11 after such proof is supplied. All overdue payments shall bear interest 12 the rate of two percent per month. If a valid claim or portion was 13 at overdue, the claimant shall also be entitled to recover his attorney's 14 15 reasonable fee, for services necessarily performed in connection with securing payment of the overdue claim, subject to limitations promulgat-16 17 ed by the superintendent in regulations.

18 (2) THE FAILURE TO ISSUE A DENIAL OF A CLAIM WITHIN THIRTY DAYS SHALL INSURER OR SELF-INSURER FROM PRESENTING EVIDENCE TO 19 NOT PRECLUDE THE ESTABLISH THAT (A) THE SERVICES OR ITEMS BILLED FOR IN A CLAIM WERE NOT 20 21 PROVIDED; (B) CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE CHARGES FOR SERVICES IN A CLAIM 22 EXCEED, BY MORE THAN TEN PERCENT, THE CHARGES PERMISSIBLE UNDER SCHED-23 ULES PREPARED AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) OF SECTION FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHT OF THIS ARTICLE, 24 OR (C) THE

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

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FROM WHICH THE CLAIM AROSE WAS BASED UPON AN INTENT TO DEFRAUD AN 1 EVENT 2 NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS INSURER OR SELF-INSURER. PARAGRAPH SHALL 3 INSURER FROM CONTESTING THE EXISTENCE OF APPLICABLE INSUR-PRECLUDE AN 4 ANCE COVERAGE FOR THE LOSS CLAIMED.

5 (3) AN INSURER MAY DENY A CLAIM ON THE BASIS OF LACK OF MEDICAL NECES-6 THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH THE CLAIM SITY NOT LATER 7 BECAME OVERDUE. ANY DENIAL OF A CLAIM WHICH IS BASED UPON A LACK OF 8 MEDICAL NECESSITY SHALL BE BASED UPON REVIEW BY A LICENSED PROVIDER WHO 9 TYPICALLY DIAGNOSES AND PROVIDES TREATMENT FOR THE CONDITION UNDER 10 REVIEW, OR TYPICALLY PROVIDES THE HEALTH CARE SERVICE OR TREATMENT UNDER 11 COPIES OF ALL REPORTS PREPARED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEW. 12 EXAMINES A CLAIMANT AT THE REQUEST OF AN INSURER OR REVIEWS A CLAIM FOR 13 MEDICAL BENEFITS AT THE REQUEST OF AN INSURER SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE 14 CLAIMANT, THE CLAIMANT'S ATTORNEY AND THE CLAIMANT'S TREATING HEALTH 15 CARE PROVIDER WITHIN THIRTY BUSINESS DAYS OF SUCH EXAMINATION OR REVIEW. (b) [Every insurer shall provide a] (1) A claimant [with] SHALL HAVE 16 17 the option of submitting any dispute involving the insurer's liability 18 to pay first party benefits, or additional first party benefits, the 19 amount thereof or any other matter which may arise pursuant to this section to arbitration pursuant to simplified 20 subsection (a) of procedures to be promulgated or approved by the superintendent. 21 Such 22 simplified procedures shall include an expedited eligibility hearing option, when required, to designate the insurer for first party benefits 23 pursuant to subsection [(d)] (F) of this section. The expedited eligi-24 25 bility hearing option shall be a forum for eligibility disputes only, 26 and shall not include the submission of any particular bill, payment or 27 claim for any specific benefit for adjudication, nor shall it consider

any other defense to payment. 29 [(c)] (2) THE COMMENCEMENT OF A COURT PROCEEDING OR THE SUBMISSION OF A DISPUTE TO ARBITRATION SHALL NOT PRECLUDE A CLAIMANT FROM ELECTING TO 30 SUBMIT OTHER DISPUTES ARISING FROM THE SAME INSTANCE OF USE OR OPERATION 31 32 OF A MOTOR VEHICLE TO THE ALTERNATE FORUM. HOWEVER, WITH THE EXCEPTION 33 PROCEEDING BROUGHT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE SEVENTY-FIVE OF THE CIVIL OF Α 34 PRACTICE LAW AND RULES, A CLAIMANT MAY NOT SUBMIT A DISPUTE REGARDING 35 THE SAME DENIAL TO MULTIPLE FORUMS.

ARBITRATORS ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW AND APPLY SUBSTANTIVE LAW. An 36 (3) 37 award by an arbitrator shall be binding except where vacated or modified 38 by a master arbitrator in accordance with simplified procedures to be 39 promulgated or approved by the superintendent, WHICH SHALL OFFER THE 40 PARTIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN BRIEFS. The grounds for vacating or modifying an arbitrator's award by a master arbitrator shall not 41 be limited to those grounds for review set forth in article seventy-five 42 43 of the civil practice law and rules AND SHALL INCLUDE FACTUAL, LEGAL AND 44 PROCEDURAL ERRORS. The award of a master arbitrator shall be binding 45 except for the grounds for review set forth in article seventy-five of civil practice law and rules, and provided further that where the 46 the 47 amount of such master arbitrator's award is five thousand dollars or 48 greater, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, the insurer or the 49 claimant may institute a court action to adjudicate the dispute de novo. 50 [(d)] (C) WITH RESPECT TO AN ACTION FOR SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY PURSU-ANT TO SECTION FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE, THE AWARD 51 OF AN ARBITRATOR OR MASTER ARBITRATOR RENDERED IN A PROCEEDING BROUGHT 52 PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, OTHER THAN AN AWARD PERTAINING TO THE ISSUE OF 53 54 THE EXISTENCE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE, SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE COLLATERAL 55 ESTOPPEL OF THE ISSUES ARBITRATED.

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3 CLAIM FOR THE PAYMENT OF MEDICAL BENEFITS PRIMA FACIE ENTITLEMENT TO 4 BENEFITS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY FILING A VERIFICATION BY THE CLAIMANT 5 WITH THE ARBITRATION DEMAND OR COMPLAINT, SETTING FORTH THAT: 6 WAS LICENSED TO RENDER THE SERVICES OR THE ITEMS (1)THECLAIMANT 7 PROVIDED AT THE TIME THEY WERE PROVIDED; 8 (2) THE SERVICES WERE RENDERED OR ITEMS SUPPLIED BY THE CLAIMANT; 9 (3) THE SERVICES OR ITEMS WERE MEDICALLY NECESSARY, OR, FOR SERVICES 10 SUPPLIES PROVIDED PURSUANT TO PRESCRIPTION, THAT SUCH WERE PROPERLY OR 11 SUPPORTED BY A PRESCRIPTION; 12 (4) THE CLAIMANT RECEIVED AN ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS FROM THE INJURED 13 PARTY OR THE GUARDIAN OR PARENT OF THE INJURED PARTY; AND CLAIMANT AUTHORIZED THE PARTICULAR ATTORNEY OR LAW FIRM TO 14 (5) THE 15 COMMENCE THE SUIT. 16 (E) WITH RESPECT TO AN ACTION COMMENCED IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURIS-17 DICTION TO OBTAIN BENEFITS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE: 18 (1) A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION OF ADMISSIBILITY ATTACHES TO CLAIMS 19 FORMS, DENIAL OF CLAIMS FORMS, VERIFICATION REQUESTS AND RESPONSES THER-20 ETO, WHEN SUCH ARE ACCOMPANIED BY AN AFFIDAVIT ESTABLISHING THAT SUCH 21 FORMS ARE BUSINESS RECORDS PURSUANT TO RULE FORTY-FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN 22 OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES. 23 (2) A REBUTTABLE EVIDENTIARY PRESUMPTION SHALL ATTACH TO SUCH DOCU-24 MENTS REFERENCED IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT SUCH ARE 25 VALID. 26 (3) A REBUTTABLE EVIDENTIARY PRESUMPTION SHALL ATTACH TO SUCH DOCU-27 MENTS REFERENCED IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT SUCH WERE 28 MAILED TO THE ADDRESS CONTAINED THEREON, ON THE DATE CONTAINED THEREON. 29 (4) A REBUTTABLE EVIDENTIARY PRESUMPTION SHALL ATTACH TO PROOFS OF 30 PAYMENT THAT SUCH PAYMENTS WERE MADE BY THE INSURER AND RECEIVED BY THE 31 PLAINTIFF. 32 (5) IN MATTERS WHERE THE INSURER'S DENIAL IS BASED UPON AN ALLEGED 33 LACK OF MEDICAL NECESSITY, A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION OF ADMISSIBILITY 34 ATTACHES TO MEDICAL REPORTS OF THE CLAIMANT'S TREATING PROVIDERS. 35 NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PRECLUDE A PARTY FROM (6) OFFERING EVIDENCE AT TRIAL TO REBUT ANY PRESUMPTION IN THIS SUBSECTION, 36 37 NOR TO PRECLUDE AN INSURER FROM OFFERING EVIDENCE AT TRIAL ON ANY MERI-38 TORIOUS, NON-PRECLUDED DEFENSE TO PAYMENT OF THE BENEFITS. 39 (7) THE DEPOSITION OF ANY PERSON MAY BE USED BY ANY PARTY WITHOUT THE 40 NECESSITY OF SHOWING UNAVAILABILITY OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SUBJECT TO RIGHT OF ANY PARTY TO MOVE PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY-ONE HUNDRED 41 THE THREE OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES TO PREVENT ABUSE, 42 PROVIDED THAT THE PARTY AGAINST WHOM THE EVIDENCE IS OFFERED HAD BEEN AFFORDED AN 43 44 OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AND QUESTION THE WITNESS AT THE DEPOSITION. 45 (F) Where there is reasonable belief more than one insurer would be the source of first party benefits, the insurers may agree among them-46 47 selves, if there is a valid basis therefor, that one of them will accept and pay the claim initially. If there is no such agreement, then the first insurer to whom notice of claim is given shall be responsible for payment. Any such dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the arbi-48 49 50 51 tration procedures established pursuant to section five thousand one hundred five of this article and regulation as promulgated by the super-52 intendent, and any insurer paying first-party benefits shall be reim-53 54 bursed by other insurers for their proportionate share of the costs of 55 the claim and the allocated expenses of processing the claim, in accord-56 ance with the provisions entitled "other coverage" contained in requ1 lation and the provisions entitled "other sources of first-party bene-2 fits" contained in regulation. If there is no such insurer and the motor 3 vehicle accident occurs in this state, then an applicant who is a quali-4 fied person as defined in article fifty-two of this chapter shall insti-5 tute the claim against motor vehicle accident indemnification corpo-6 ration.

7 S 3. Section 5109 of the insurance law, as added by chapter 423 of the 8 laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

S 5109. Unauthorized providers of health services. (a) The superinten-9 10 dent[, in consultation with the commissioner of health and the commissioner of education,] shall by regulation, promulgate standards and 11 12 procedures for investigating and suspending or removing the authorization for providers of health services to demand or request payment for 13 14 health services as specified in paragraph one of subsection (a) of 15 section five thousand one hundred two of this article upon findings reached after investigation pursuant to this section. Such regulations 16 17 shall ensure the same or greater due process provisions, [including] AND 18 INCLUDE notice and opportunity to be heard, as those afforded physicians 19 investigated under article two of the workers' compensation law and shall include provision for notice to all providers of health services 20 21 of the provisions of this section and regulations promulgated thereunder 22 at least ninety days in advance of the effective date of such regu-AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "HEALTH SERVICES" MEANS SERVICES, 23 lations. SUPPLIES, THERAPIES OR OTHER TREATMENT AS SPECIFIED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I), 24 25 (II) OR (IV) OF PARAGRAPH ONE OF SUBSECTION (A) OF SECTION FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWO OF THIS ARTICLE. 26

(b) [The commissioner of health and the commissioner of education shall provide a list of the names of all providers of health services 27 28 who the commissioner of health and the commissioner of education shall 29 deem, after reasonable investigation, not authorized to demand or 30 request any payment for medical services in connection with any claim 31 32 under this article because such] FOLLOWING THE HEARING CONDUCTED PURSU-33 PROCEDURES REGULATION PROMULGATED ANT TO THE AND PURSUANT ТΟ THIS 34 SECTION, THE SUPERINTENDENT MAY PROHIBIT A PROVIDER OF HEALTH SERVICES 35 FROM DEMANDING OR REQUESTING PAYMENT FOR HEALTH SERVICES SUBSEQUENTLY RENDERED UNDER THIS ARTICLE, FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE YEARS, IF 36 37 THE SUPERINTENDENT DETERMINES, AFTER NOTICE AND HEARING, THAT THE 38 provider of health services:

39 (1) has ADMITTED TO, OR been FOUND guilty of, professional [or other] 40 misconduct [or incompetency], AS DEFINED IN THE EDUCATION LAW, in 41 connection with [medical] HEALTH services rendered under this article; 42 or

(2) has exceeded the limits of his or her professional competence in rendering medical care under this article or has knowingly made a false statement or representation as to a material fact in any medical report made in connection with any claim under this article; or

47 (3) solicited, or has employed another to solicit for himself or 48 herself or for another, professional treatment, examination or care of 49 an injured person in connection with any claim under this article; or

50 (4) has refused to appear before, or to answer upon request of, the 51 [commissioner of health, the] superintendent[,] or any duly authorized the state, any legal question, or REFUSED to produce any 52 officer of relevant information concerning [his or her] THE conduct OF THE PROVIDER 53 54 OF HEALTH SERVICES in connection with [rendering medical] HEALTH 55 services RENDERED under this article; or

has engaged in [patterns] A PATTERN of billing for: HEALTH 1 (5) services [which were not provided.] ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN RENDERED UNDER 2 3 ARTICLE, WHEN THE HEALTH SERVICES WERE NOT RENDERED, PROVIDED THAT THIS THIS SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO APPLY TO GOOD FAITH DISPUTES 4 REGARDING 5 APPROPRIATENESS OF A PARTICULAR CODING TO DESCRIBE A HEALTH CARE THE 6 SERVICE; OR 7 (6) UTILIZED UNLICENSED PERSONS TO RENDER HEALTH SERVICES UNDER THIS 8 ARTICLE, WHEN ONLY A PERSON LICENSED IN THIS STATE MAY RENDER THE HEALTH 9 SERVICES; OR 10 (7) UTILIZED LICENSED PERSONS TO RENDER HEALTH SERVICES UNDER THIS 11 ARTICLE, WHEN RENDERING THE HEALTH SERVICES IS BEYOND THEAUTHORIZED SCOPE OF THE LICENSE OF SUCH PERSON; OR 12 13 (8) UNLAWFULLY CEDED OWNERSHIP, OPERATION OR CONTROL OF A BUSINESS 14 ENTITY AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THIS STATE, 15 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, PROFES-16 SIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY OR REGISTERED LIMITED LIABILITY PART-NERSHIP, TO A PERSON NOT LICENSED TO RENDER THE HEALTH SERVICES WHICH 17 18 THE ENTITY IS LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE; OR 19 (9) COMMITTED A FRAUDULENT INSURANCE ACT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 176.05 20 OF THE PENAL LAW; OR 21 (10)HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME INVOLVING FRAUDULENT OR DISHONEST 22 PRACTICES; OR (11) HAS, AFTER WARNING BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, ENGAGED IN A PATTERN OF 23 24 UNLAWFULLY ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT PAYMENT DIRECTLY FROM THE PATIENT OR 25 ELIGIBLE PERSON FOR SERVICES RENDERED UNDER THIS ARTICLE WHEN SUCH 26 ATTEMPTS VIOLATE THE TERMS OF AN ENFORCEABLE ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS. 27 (c) [Providers] THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL BY REGULATION DEVELOP DUE 28 PROCEDURES TO ASSURE A HEALTH PROVIDER ACCUSED UNDER THIS PROCESS 29 SECTION HAS APPROPRIATE NOTICE, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A FAIR HEARING AND APPEAL PRIOR TO A DETERMINATION THAT THE HEALTH PROVIDER MAY NOT BILL 30 FOR SERVICES UNDER THIS SECTION. A PROVIDER of health services shall 31 32 [refrain from subsequently treating for remuneration, as a private patient, any person seeking medical treatment] NOT DEMAND OR REQUEST 33 34 PAYMENT FOR ANY HEALTH SERVICES under this article [if such provider 35 pursuant to this section has been prohibited from demanding or requesting any payment for medical services under this article. An injured 36 37 claimant so treated or examined may raise this as] THAT ARE RENDERED 38 DURING THE TERM OF THE PROHIBITION ORDERED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT PURSU-ANT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION. THE PROHIBITION ORDERED 39 BY THE 40 SUPERINTENDENT MAY BE a defense in any action by [such] THE provider OF HEALTH SERVICES for payment for [treatment] HEALTH SERVICES rendered 41 PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE at any time after such provider has been 42 43 prohibited from demanding or requesting payment for [medical] SUCH 44 HEALTH services in connection with any claim under this article. 45 The [commissioner of health and the commissioner of education] (d) SUPERINTENDENT shall maintain and regularly update a database containing 46 47 a list of providers of health services prohibited by this section from 48 demanding or requesting any payment [for health services connected to a 49 claim] RENDERED under this article and shall make [such] THE information 50 available to the public [by means of a website and by a toll free 51 number]. SUPERINTENDENT MAY LEVY A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING FIFTY 52 (e) THE THOUSAND DOLLARS ON ANY PROVIDER OF HEALTH SERVICES THAT THE SUPERINTEN-

53 THOUSAND DOLLARS ON ANY PROVIDER OF HEALTH SERVICES THAT THE SUPERINTEN-54 DENT PROHIBITS FROM DEMANDING OR REQUESTING PAYMENT FOR HEALTH SERVICES 55 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION. ANY CIVIL PENALTY IMPOSED 1 FOR A FRAUDULENT INSURANCE ACT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 176.05 OF THE 2 PENAL LAW, SHALL BE LEVIED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE FOUR OF THIS CHAPTER.

3 (F) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting in any 4 respect the powers and duties of the commissioner of health, commission-5 er of education or the superintendent to investigate instances of 6 misconduct by a [health care] provider [and, after a hearing and upon 7 written notice to the provider, to temporarily prohibit a provider of 8 health services under such investigation from demanding or requesting any payment for medical services under this article for up to ninety 9 10 days from the date of such notice] OF HEALTH SERVICES AND TAKE APPROPRI-PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW. A DETERMINATION OF 11 ATE ACTION 12 THE SUPERINTENDENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE BINDING UPON THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH OR THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCA-13 14 TION IN A PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE PROCEEDING RELATING TO THE SAME 15 CONDUCT.

16 S 4. Subsection (d) of section 5102 of the insurance law, as amended 17 by chapter 955 of the laws of 1984, is amended to read as follows:

18 (d) "Serious injury" means a personal injury which results in death; 19 dismemberment; significant disfigurement; a fracture; loss of a fetus; A 20 COMPLETE TEAR OR RUPTURE OF A NERVE, TENDON, LIGAMENT, CARTILAGE OR 21 A TEAR, RUPTURE OR IMPINGEMENT OF A NERVE, TENDON, LIGAMENT, MUSCLE; 22 CARTILAGE OR MUSCLE WHICH RESULTS IN A SIGNIFICANT IMPAIRMENT OF A BODY 23 ORGAN, MEMBER, FUNCTION OR SYSTEM; permanent loss of use of a body 24 organ, member, function or system; permanent consequential limitation of 25 use of a body organ or member; significant limitation of use of a body 26 function or system; or a medically determined injury or impairment of a 27 non-permanent nature which prevents the injured person from performing 28 substantially all of the material acts which constitute such person's 29 usual and customary daily activities for not less than ninety days during the one hundred eighty days immediately following the occurrence 30 31 of the injury or impairment.

32 S 5. Subsection (j) of section 3420 of the insurance law is amended by 33 adding a new paragraph 4 to read as follows:

34 (4) THE TERM "COVERED PERSON" AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL MEAN ANY PEDESTRIAN INJURED THROUGH THE USE OR OPERATION OF, OR ANY OWNER, OPERA-35 TOR OR OCCUPANT OF, A MOTOR VEHICLE WHICH HAS IN EFFECT THE FINANCIAL 36 37 SECURITY REQUIRED BY ARTICLE SIX OR EIGHT OF THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW 38 OR WHICH IS REFERRED TO IN SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED 39 TWENTY-ONE OF SUCH LAW; OR ANY OTHER PERSON ENTITLED TO FIRST PARTY 40 BENEFITS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, "COVERED PERSON" SHALL ALSO INCLUDE ANY PERSON INJURED AS THE RESULT OF A STAGED, PLANNED OR INTEN-41 TIONAL ACCIDENT, PROVIDED THAT SUCH PERSON IS NOT A PERPETRATOR OF OR A 42 43 KNOWING PARTICIPANT IN THE STAGING OR PLANNING OF THE ACCIDENT.

44 S 6. Section 5202 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new 45 subsection (m) to read as follows:

(M) "COVERED PERSON" MEANS ANY PEDESTRIAN INJURED THROUGH THE 46 USE OR 47 OPERATION OF, OR ANY OWNER, OPERATOR OR OCCUPANT OF, A MOTOR VEHICLE 48 WHICH HAS IN EFFECT THE FINANCIAL SECURITY REQUIRED BY ARTICLE SIX OR 49 EIGHT OF THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW OR WHICH IS REFERRED TO IN SUBDIVI-50 TWO OF SECTION THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE OF SUCH LAW; OR ANY OTHER SION 51 PERSON ENTITLED TO FIRST PARTY BENEFITS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTI-52 CLE, "COVERED PERSON" SHALL ALSO INCLUDE ANY PERSON INJURED AS THE RESULT OF A STAGED, PLANNED OR INTENTIONAL ACCIDENT, PROVIDED THAT SUCH 53 54 PERSON IS NOT A PERPETRATOR OF OR A KNOWING PARTICIPANT IN THE STAGING OR PLANNING OF THE ACCIDENT. 55

56 S 7. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that:

1 (a) section two of this act shall apply to benefits initiated on or 2 after the one hundred eightieth day after this act shall have become a 3 law; and

4 (b) sections three, five and six of this act shall take effect on the 5 one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law provided that 6 the superintendent of financial services shall immediately promulgate 7 rules and regulations pursuant to section 5109 of the insurance law as 8 amended by section three of this act and sections five and six of this 9 act shall apply to all new policies and policies that are renewed or 10 modified after such one hundred eightieth day.