STATE OF NEW YORK

8519--A

R. R. 637

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

June 18, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. MORELLE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Insurance -- reported and referred to the Committee on Rules -- amended on the special order of third reading, ordered reprinted as amended, retaining its place on the special order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to limits on certain supplementary insurance; 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:

Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 3420 of the insurance law is amended by adding a new paragraph 2-a to read as follows:

(2-a) (A) Notwithstanding paragraph two of this subsection, this paragraph shall apply to any new insurance policy or contract entered into after the effective date of this paragraph. This paragraph shall not be deemed to apply to any policies originally entered into prior to the effective date of this paragraph, but renewed after the effective date of this paragraph. Any new insurance policy or contract entered into after the effective date of this paragraph shall, at the option of the insured, also provide supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists insurance for bodily injury, in an amount equal to the bodily injury liability insurance limits of coverage provided under such motor vehicle liability insurance policy; provided, however, that any named insured may exercise the choice to decline such supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists insurance or select a lower amount of coverage through a written waiver signed, or electronically signed, by such insured, subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B) of this paragraph. Supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists insurance shall provide coverage, in any state or Canadian province, if the limits of liability under all bodily injury liability bonds and insurance policies of any other motor vehicle liable for damages are in a lesser amount than the bodily injury liability insurance limits of coverage

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

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provided by such policy. Upon written request by any insured covered by supplemental uninsured/underinsured motorists insurance or his duly authorized representative and upon disclosure by the insured of the insured's bodily injury and supplemental uninsured/underinsured motorists insurance coverage limits, the insurer of any other owner or operator of another motor vehicle against which a claim has been made for damages to the insured shall disclose, within forty-five days of the request, the bodily injury liability insurance limits of its coverage provided under the policy or all bodily injury liability bonds. The time of the insured to make any supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorist claim, shall be tolled during the period the insurer of any other owner or operator of another motor vehicle that may be liable for damages to the insured, fails to so disclose its coverage. As a condition precedent to the obligation of the insurer to pay under the supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists insurance coverage, the limits of liability of all bodily injury liability bonds or insurance policies applicable at the time of the accident shall be exhausted by payment of judgments or settlements.

(B) In addition to the notice provided, upon issuance of a policy of motor vehicle liability insurance pursuant to regulations promulgated by the superintendent, insurers shall notify insureds, in writing, of the availability of supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists coverage. Such notification shall contain an explanation of supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists coverage and the amounts in which it can be purchased. Subsequently, a notification of availability shall be provided at least once a year and may be simplified pursuant to regulations promulgated by the superintendent, but must include a concise statement that supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists coverage is available, an explanation of such coverage, and the coverage limits that can be purchased from the insurer. If an insured elects to reject supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage or select a lower amount of supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage than the bodily injury liability insurance limits of coverage provided under the insured's motor vehicle liability insurance policy, the selection of lower supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists coverage or rejection of such coverage must be made on a written or electronic form provided to the named insured. Such form shall also advise that such coverage is equal to the insured's bodily injury liability limits under the motor vehicle liability insurance policy unless lower limits are requested or the coverage is rejected.

(i) The form shall be in at least 12-point bold type and shall state: "SUPPLEMENTARY UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED MOTORISTS COVERAGE (SUM COVERAGE) PROVIDES INSURANCE PROTECTION FOR ANY PERSON INCLUDED AS INSURED UNDER YOUR POLICY IF HE OR SHE IS INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING ANOTHER MOTOR VEHICLE WHOSE OWNER OR OPERATOR WAS NEGLIGENT BUT WHO HAS EITHER NO BODILY INJURY OR LIABILITY INSURANCE, OR LESS THAN THE INSURANCE YOU CARRY. SUM COVERAGE SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE LEVEL OF THE BODILY INJURY LIABILITY COVERAGE OF YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY UNLESS YOU SIGN A WAIVER REQUESTING LOWER COVERAGE OR DECLINING THE COVERAGE. YOU ARE URGED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THIS DECISION."

(ii) An insured's written waiver shall apply to all subsequent renewals of coverage and to all policies or endorsements which extend, change, supersede, or replace an existing policy issued to the named insured, unless changed in writing by any named insured.

(iii) the selection of lower supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists coverage or the rejection of such coverage by any one named insured shall be binding upon all insureds under such policy.

(C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, at the insurer's option, the insured's supplementary uninsured/underinsured motorists coverage limit may be required to equal the insured's bodily injury liability insurance limit under the motor vehicle liability insurance policy.

(D) An insurer may provide the coverage described in this paragraph available in an umbrella or excess liability policy if the umbrella or excess liability policy expressly provides such coverage.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law, and shall apply to new insurance policies and contracts issued on and after such effective date and shall expire and be deemed repealed June 30, 2020.