

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 617

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Small Business, Insurance and Industry, April 1, 2014, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

4628S.02C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 379.200 and 537.065, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to the regulation of insurance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 379.200 and 537.065, RSMo, are repealed and five new
2 sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 375.417, 375.418,
3 375.419, 379.200 and 537.065, to read as follows:

**375.417. 1. As used in sections 375.417 and 375.418, the following
2 terms mean:**

3 **(1) "Duty to defend", the duty arising under a contract of
4 insurance to provide a defense to the insured as required under the
5 insurance contract;**

6 **(2) "Duty to indemnify", the duty of an insurer to pay settlements
7 or judgments on account of the actual or potential liability of an
8 insured for damages as required under the insurance contract;**

9 **(3) "Insured", a person or entity who is or may be entitled to a
10 defense or indemnification under a contract of insurance;**

11 **(4) "Reservation of rights", a statement by or on behalf of an
12 insurer of the reasons which may relieve the insurer of its duty to
13 defend or duty to indemnify.**

14 **2. A reservation of rights shall:**

15 **(1) Be made in writing and be sent to the insured by mail, or
16 delivered to the insured either in person or by electronic means
17 pursuant to section 379.011;**

18 **(2) Be so provided to an insured no later than sixty days after
19 the insurer has both:**

20 (a) Received notice of the claim or suit against the insured, and
21 (b) Become aware of a basis for asserting its reservation of
22 rights; and

23 (3) State with reasonable specificity the basis for the reservation
24 of rights.

25 3. When an insurer has communicated a reservation of rights, the
26 fact that the insurer has:

27 (1) Communicated the reservation of rights;

28 (2) Offered to defend subject to a reservation of rights;

29 (3) Provided a defense subject to a reservation of rights; or

30 (4) Initiated or participated in a declaratory judgment action or
31 other action in which a judicial determination of coverage under a
32 contract of insurance is sought or made; or

33 (5) Declined or refused to withdraw a reservation of rights, shall
34 neither constitute, nor be evidence of, breach of any duty owed to the
35 insured, whether in tort, contract, or otherwise. In applying this
36 section, it is the intent of the general assembly to reject and abrogate
37 the holdings contained in *Butters v. City of Independence*, 513 S.W.2d
38 418 (Mo. 1974), *Whitehead v. Lakeside Hosp. Ass'n*, 844 S.W.2d 475 (Mo.
39 App. 1992), *State ex rel. Mid-Century Ins. Co. v. McKelvey*, 666 S.W.2d 457
40 (Mo. App. 1984), and *Truck Ins. Exch. v. Prairie Framing, LLC*, 162
41 S.W.3d 64 (Mo. App. W.D. 2005), and other decisions holding or
42 otherwise suggesting that an insurer may be found to have breached
43 the duty to defend under the circumstances listed in this subsection.

44 4. Where an insurer offers or provides a defense subject to a
45 reservation of rights, the insured remains bound by any and all
46 provisions in the insurance contract including but not limited to any
47 duty to cooperate.

48 5. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create any
49 obligation to defend or indemnify which is not expressly set forth in
50 the insurance contract.

51 6. Nothing in this section shall change the obligations an insurer
52 may have with regard to the payment of minimum limits under the
53 Missouri motor vehicle financial responsibility law prescribed in
54 section 303.190.

55 7. This section does not apply to any insurance contract which
56 does not contain an express duty to defend.

57 8. Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in this section, any
58 reservation of rights sent within sixty days of the effective date of this
59 section shall meet the requirements of subdivision (2) of subsection 2
60 of this section.

 375.418. If an insurer breaches its duty to defend, in the absence
2 of a final adjudication of bad faith, the insurer shall be liable for any
3 judgment against the insured or any reasonable settlement made by the
4 insured, but only up to the applicable limits of liability of the insurance
5 contract. The insurer shall be liable for reasonable attorney fees and
6 statutory court costs incurred by the insured in conducting the defense
7 of the suit. In applying this section, it is the intent of the general
8 assembly to reject and abrogate any previous case law which holds or
9 otherwise suggests that a breach of the duty to defend, without a final
10 adjudication of bad faith, allows for an award of damages in excess of
11 the applicable limits of liability stated in the insurance contract,
12 including but not limited to, the holding contained in *Columbia Cas. Co.*
13 *v. HIAR Holding, LLC*, 411 S.W.3d 258 (Mo.banc 2013). This section shall
14 apply to all causes of actions, suits, and claims unless there has been
15 a final judgment entered against the insurer before the effective date
16 of this section holding that the insurer breached its duty to defend the
17 insured.

 375.419. When an insurer offers or provides a defense to a
2 lawsuit filed against its insured, the insurer shall have the
3 unconditional right to intervene in any such lawsuit. It is the intent of
4 the general assembly to reject and abrogate any holding or suggestion
5 contained in *State ex rel. Mid-Century Ins. Co. v. McKelvey*, 666 S.W.2d
6 457 (Mo. App. 1984), *State ex rel. Rimco, Inc. v. Dowd*, 858 S.W.2d 307
7 (Mo. App. 1993), and all other decisions which hold or suggest
8 otherwise. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an
9 insurer to intervene in any such lawsuit.

 379.200. 1. Upon the recovery of a final judgment against any person,
2 firm or corporation by any person, including administrators or executors, for loss
3 or damage on account of bodily injury or death, or damage to property if the
4 defendant in such action was insured against said loss or damage at the time
5 when the right of action arose, the judgment creditor shall be entitled to have the
6 insurance money, provided for in the contract of insurance between the insurance
7 company, person, firm or association as described in section 379.195, and the

8 defendant, applied to the satisfaction of the judgment, and if the judgment is not
9 satisfied within thirty days after the date when it is rendered, the judgment
10 creditor may proceed in equity against the defendant and the insurance company
11 to reach and apply the insurance money to the satisfaction of the judgment. This
12 section shall not apply to any insurance company in liquidation.

13 **2. No party shall add or join any other or different cause of**
14 **action to a claim brought pursuant to this section, whether in the**
15 **petition or by way of any counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party**
16 **claim.**

17 **3. In any proceeding brought to garnish on an insurance contract**
18 **under this section or any other rule or provision of law:**

19 **(1) The judgment creditor shall have the burden of showing that**
20 **the judgment was the result of a contested adversarial proceeding. If**
21 **the judgment on which the garnishment was initiated was entered**
22 **without trial by jury, the judge who entered that judgment shall not**
23 **make the determination called for by this subdivision. As used in this**
24 **section, a "contested adversarial proceeding" means a proceeding in**
25 **which all parties have the opportunity to conduct discovery, present**
26 **evidence, and cross-examine witnesses and the judgment debtor's**
27 **insurer defended, or expressly declined to defend, its insured;**

28 **(2) If it is determined that coverage is provided for the loss, but**
29 **the evidence does not show that the judgment resulted from a contested**
30 **adversarial proceeding, the insurer shall have the right to trial by jury**
31 **on the issue of the damages to be assessed against the judgment debtor**
32 **as in the case of default judgments.**

33 **4. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create any**
34 **obligation to defend or indemnify which is not expressly set forth in**
35 **the insurance contract.**

537.065. 1. Any person having an unliquidated claim for damages against
2 a tort-feasor, on account of bodily injuries or death, may enter into a contract
3 with such tort-feasor or any insurer in his behalf or both, whereby, in
4 consideration of the payment of a specified amount, the person asserting the
5 claim agrees that in the event of a judgment against the tort-feasor, neither he
6 nor any person, firm or corporation claiming by or through him will levy
7 execution, by garnishment or as otherwise provided by law, except against the
8 specific assets listed in the contract and except against any insurer which insures

9 the legal liability of the tort-feasor for such damage and which insurer is not
10 excepted from execution, garnishment or other legal procedure by such
11 contract. Execution or garnishment proceedings in aid thereof shall lie only as
12 to assets of the tort-feasor specifically mentioned in the contract or the insurer
13 or insurers not excluded in such contract. Such contract, when properly
14 acknowledged by the parties thereto, may be recorded in the office of the recorder
15 of deeds in any county where a judgment may be rendered, or in the county of the
16 residence of the tort-feasor, or in both such counties, and if the same is so
17 recorded then such tort-feasor's property, except as to the assets specifically listed
18 in the contract, shall not be subject to any judgment lien as the result of any
19 judgment rendered against the tort-feasor, arising out of the transaction for
20 which the contract is entered into.

21 **2. No agreement under this section shall condition the protection**
22 **of the assets of the alleged tort-feasor on the performance of any future**
23 **act.**

24 **3. No insurer shall be required to enter into an agreement under**
25 **this section. The fact that an insurer has not entered into an**
26 **agreement under this section shall not be evidence of the commission**
27 **of a tort or breach of contract.**

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