

New York
INSURANCE LAW — CHAPTER 28 OF THE
CONSOLIDATED LAWS
Article 42 — LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES AND
ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES AND
LEGAL SERVICES INSURANCE COMPANIES

Ins. Law s 4224 Life, accident and health insurance; discrimination and rebating;
prohibited inducements and interdependent sales

Former Citations Ins. Law s 209; Ins. Law s 193

(a) No life insurance company doing business in this state and no savings and insurance bank shall:

(1) make or permit any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class and of equal expectation of life, in the amount or payment or return of premiums, or rates charged for policies of life insurance or annuity contracts, or in the dividends or other benefits payable thereon, or in any of the terms and conditions thereof;

(2) refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure or limit the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to an individual, or charge a different rate for the same coverage solely because of the physical or mental disability, impairment or disease, or prior history thereof, of the insured or potential insured, except where the refusal, limitation or rate differential is permitted by law or regulation and is based on sound actuarial principles or is related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience, in which case the insurer, subject to the limitations contained in section twenty-six hundred eleven of this chapter, shall notify the insured or potential insured of the right to receive, or to designate a medical professional to receive, the specific reason or reasons for such refusal, limitation or rate differential;

(3) knowingly permit, and no agent thereof and no licensed insurance broker shall offer to make or make, any policy of life insurance or annuity contract or agreement as to such policy or contract other than as plainly expressed in the policy or contract.

(b) No insurer doing in this state the business of accident and health insurance, as specified in paragraph three of subsection (a) of section one thousand one hundred thirteen of this chapter, and no officer or agent of such insurer and no licensed insurance broker, and no employee or other representative of such insurer, agent or broker shall:

(1) make or permit any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class in the amount of premiums, policy fees, or rates charged for any policy of

accident and health insurance, or in the benefits payable thereon, or in any of the terms or conditions of such policies, or in any other manner whatsoever;

(2) refuse to insure, refuse to continue to insure or limit the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to an individual, or charge a different rate for the same coverage solely because of the physical or mental disability, impairment or disease, or prior history thereof, of the insured or potential insured, except where the refusal, limitation or rate differential is permitted by law or regulation and is based on sound actuarial principles or is related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience, in which case the insurer, subject to the limitations contained in section twenty-six hundred eleven of this chapter shall notify the insured or potential insured of the right to receive, or to designate a medical professional to receive, the specific reason or reasons for such refusal, limitation or rate differential;

(3) knowingly permit or offer to make or make, any policy of accident and health insurance, other than as plainly expressed in the policy.

(c) Except as permitted by section three thousand two hundred thirty-nine of this chapter or subsection (f) of this section, no such life insurance company and no such savings and insurance bank and no officer, agent, solicitor or representative thereof and no such insurer doing in this state the business of accident and health insurance and no officer, agent, solicitor or representative thereof, and no licensed insurance broker and no employee or other representative of any such insurer, agent or broker, shall pay, allow or give, or offer to pay, allow or give, directly or indirectly, as an inducement to any person to insure, or shall give, sell or purchase, or offer to give, sell or purchase, as such inducement, or interdependent with any policy of life insurance or annuity contract or policy of accident and health insurance, any stocks, bonds, or other securities, or any dividends or profits accruing or to accrue thereon, or any valuable consideration or inducement whatever not specified in such policy or contract other than any valuable consideration, including but not limited to merchandise or periodical subscriptions, not exceeding twenty-five dollars in value; nor shall any person in this state knowingly receive as such inducement, any rebate of premium or policy fee or any special favor or advantage in the dividends or other benefits to accrue on any such policy or contract, or knowingly receive any paid employment or contract for services of any kind, or any valuable consideration or inducement whatever which is not specified in such policy or contract.

(d)(1) No insurer authorized to do one or more of the kinds of insurance business specified in paragraph one, two or three of subsection (a) of section one thousand one hundred thirteen of this chapter or authorized to do the kind of insurance business specified in section three thousand two hundred twenty-two of this chapter shall directly or indirectly, or by any of its agents or representatives, or by any broker or brokers, participate in any plan to offer or effect any kind or kinds of such insurance business in this state as an inducement to, or interdependent with, the purchase by the public of any goods, securities, commodities, housing, services or subscriptions to periodicals, except as provided by subsection (e) of section three thousand four hundred thirty-six, paragraph three of subsection (b) of section four thousand two hundred sixteen of this article, by subparagraph (E) of paragraph one of subsection (c) of section four thousand two hundred thirty-five of this article or by article forty-six of the public health law.

(2) This subsection shall not prohibit payment plans which are otherwise in compliance with this subsection and this chapter.

(e) This section shall not prohibit the giving by any company, in its discretion, of medical examinations and diagnoses and of nursing services to all or any part of its policyholders, under reasonable rules and regulations.

(f) (1) This subsection shall apply only with respect to a group or blanket accident and health insurance policy issued by an insurer licensed to write accident and health insurance in this state or a group contract issued by a corporation organized pursuant to article forty-three of this chapter, or a health maintenance organization certified pursuant to article forty-four of the public health law.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, a licensed agent or insurance broker may develop, implement, and administer wellness programs established in accordance with section three thousand two hundred thirty-nine of this chapter without charging a service fee or, in the case of a licensed insurance broker, for a reduced service fee pursuant to a written memorandum made in accordance with subsection (c) of section two thousand one hundred nineteen of this chapter, if such programs are provided in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner and incidental to a group or blanket policy or contract sold by the insurance agent or insurance broker.

History: L. 1984, c. 367, s 1; L. 1986, c. 293, s 9; L. 1989, c. 689, s 6; L. 1994, c. 713, s 1; L. 2002, c. 4 (AB 11835), s 1, eff. 12-30-2002; L. 2002, c. 13 (AB 9289), s 8, eff. 3-19-2002; 2008, AB 10884, s 2, eff. 9-25-2008; 2012, AB 9702, s 2, eff. 8-1-2012; 2013, SB 2894, ss 1, 2, eff. 11-13-2013.