

CHAPTER 15
UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES
[Prior to 10/22/86, Insurance Department[510]]

DIVISION I
SALES PRACTICES

191—15.1(507B) Purpose. This chapter is intended to establish certain minimum standards and guidelines of conduct by identifying unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance, as prohibited by Iowa Code chapter 507B.

191—15.2(507B) Definitions.

“*Advertisement*” for the purpose of these rules shall be material designed to create public interest in insurance or an insurer, or to induce the public to purchase, increase, modify, reinstate or retain a policy including:

1. Printed and published material, audio and visual material, and descriptive literature of an insurer or producer used in direct mail, newspapers, magazines, radio scripts, TV scripts, billboards, computer on-line networks and similar displays; descriptive literature and sales aids of all kinds issued by an insurer or producer for presentation to members of the public, including but not limited to circulars, leaflets, booklets, depictions, illustrations, and form letters; and sales talks, presentations, and material for use by producers.

2. However, for the purpose of these rules “advertisement” shall not include: communications or materials used within an insurer’s own organization and not intended for dissemination to the public; communications with policyholders other than material urging policyholders to purchase, increase, modify, reinstate, or retain a policy; and a general announcement from a group or blanket policyholder to eligible individuals on an employment or membership list that a policy or program has been written or arranged, provided the announcement clearly indicates that it is preliminary to the issuance of a booklet explaining the proposed coverage.

“*Aftermarket crash parts*” means replacement parts as defined in Iowa Code section 537B.4.

“*Certificate*” means a statement of the coverage and provisions of a policy of group accident and sickness insurance which has been delivered or issued for delivery in this state and includes riders, endorsements and enrollment forms, if attached.

“*Duplicate Medicare supplement insurance*” shall mean the sale or the attempt to knowingly sell to an individual a policy of insurance designed to supplement Medicare benefits as provided in The Health Insurance for the Aged Act, Title XVII of the Social Security Amendments of 1965 as then constituted or later amended when the individual is already insured under such a policy.

“*Duplication*” means policies of the same coverage type according to minimum standards classifications outlined in 191 IAC 36.6(514D) which overlap to the extent that a reasonable individual would not consider the ownership of the policies to be beneficial.

“*Exception*” for the purpose of these rules shall mean any provision in a policy whereby coverage for a specified hazard is entirely eliminated; it is a statement of a risk not assumed under the policy.

“*Illustrated scale*” shall mean a scale of nonguaranteed elements currently being illustrated that is not more favorable to the policyholder than the lesser of the disciplined current scale or the currently payable scale as defined in 191 IAC 14.4(507B).

“*Institutional advertisement*” means an advertisement having as its sole purpose the promotion of the reader’s, viewer’s or listener’s interest in the concept of accident and sickness insurance, or the promotion of the insurer as a seller of accident and sickness insurance.

“*Insurer*” shall mean any corporation, association, partnership, reciprocal exchange, interinsurer, Lloyd’s, fraternal benefit society, and any other legal entity engaged in the business of insurance.

“*Invitation to contract*” means an advertisement for accident and sickness insurance that is neither an invitation to inquire nor an institutional advertisement.

“*Invitation to inquire*” means an advertisement having as its objective the creation of a desire to inquire further about accident and sickness insurance and that is limited to a brief description of the loss for which benefits are payable. An invitation to inquire may not refer to cost but may contain the dollar amount of benefits payable and the period of time during which benefits are payable.

“*Limitation*” for the purpose of these rules shall mean any provision which restricts coverage under the policy other than an exception or a reduction.

“*Limited benefit health coverage*” shall have the same meaning as defined in 191—subrule 36.6(10).

“*Person*” shall mean any individual, corporation, association, partnership, trust, benevolent association or any other business relationship recognized by law.

“*Policy*” shall include any policy, plan, certificate, contract, agreement, statement of coverage, rider, or endorsement which provides for insurance benefits.

“*Preneed funeral contract or prearrangement*” shall mean an agreement by or for an individual before the individual’s death relating to the purchase or provision of specific funeral or cemetery merchandise or services.

“*Producer*” shall mean a person who solicits, negotiates, effects, procures, delivers, renews, continues or binds policies of insurance for risks residing, located or to be performed in this state.

“*Prominently*” or “*conspicuously*” means that the information to be disclosed will be presented in a manner that is noticeably set apart from other information or images in the advertisement.

“*Reduction*” for the purpose of these rules shall mean any provision which reduces the amount of the benefit; a risk of loss is assumed but payment upon the occurrence of such loss is limited to some amount or period less than would be otherwise payable had such reduction not been used.

“*Twisting*” shall mean any action by a producer or insurer to induce or attempt to induce any individual to lapse, forfeit, surrender, terminate, retain, assign, borrow, or convert a policy or an annuity in order that such individual procure another policy or annuity, when such action would operate to the overall detriment of the interests of the individual.

191—15.3(507B) Advertising.

15.3(1) *Form and content of advertisements.* The format and content of an advertisement shall be truthful and sufficiently complete and clear to avoid deception or the capacity or tendency to misrepresent or deceive. Whether an advertisement has a capacity or tendency to misrepresent or deceive shall be determined by the overall impression that the advertisement may be reasonably expected to create upon an individual in the segment of the public to which it is primarily directed and who has average education, intelligence and familiarity with insurance terminology for products in that market.

Information regarding exceptions, limitations, reductions and other restrictions required to be disclosed by this rule shall not be minimized, rendered obscure or presented in an ambiguous fashion or intermingled with the context of the advertisements so as to be confusing or misleading.

15.3(2) *Prohibited terms and disclosure requirements for health insurance.*

a. No advertisement shall contain or use words or phrases such as “all”; “full”; “complete”; “comprehensive”; “unlimited”; “up to”; “as high as”; “this policy will help fill some of the gaps that Medicare and your present insurance leave out”; “this policy will help to replace your income” (when used to express loss of time benefits); or similar words and phrases, in a manner which exaggerates any benefits beyond the terms of the policy.

b. No advertisement shall contain descriptions of a policy limitation, exception, or reduction, worded in a positive manner to imply that it is a benefit, such as describing a waiting period as a “benefit builder” or stating “even preexisting conditions are covered after two years.” Words and phrases used in an advertisement to describe such policy limitations, exceptions and reductions shall fairly and accurately describe the negative features of such limitations, exceptions and reductions of the policy offered.

c. No advertisement of a benefit for which payment is conditional upon confinement in a hospital or similar facility shall use words or phrases such as “tax free,” “extra cash” and substantially similar phrases which have the capacity, tendency or effect of misleading the public into believing that the policy advertised will, in some way, enable an individual to make a profit from being hospitalized.

d. No advertisement shall use the words “only”; “just”; “merely”; “minimum” or similar words or phrases to describe the applicability of any exceptions and reductions, such as: “This policy is subject to the following minimum exceptions and reductions.”

e. An advertisement which refers to either a dollar amount, or a period of time for which any benefit is payable, or the cost of the policy, or specific policy benefit, or the loss for which such benefit is payable, shall also disclose those exceptions, reductions, and limitations affecting the basic provisions of the policy without which the advertisement would have the capacity or tendency to mislead or deceive.

f. An advertisement may contain a brief description of coverage in an invitation to inquire so long as it is limited to a brief description of the loss for which benefits are payable. The brief description may also contain the dollar amount of benefits payable or the period of time during which benefits are payable, or both, but may not refer to the cost of the policy.

g. An advertisement for a policy which contains a waiting, elimination, probationary, or similar time period between the effective date of the policy and the effective date of coverage under the policy or a time period between the date a loss occurs and the date benefits begin to accrue for such loss shall prominently disclose the existence of such periods.

h. An invitation to inquire shall contain a provision in the following or substantially similar form: “This policy has [exclusions] [limitations] [reduction of benefits] [terms under which the policy may be continued in force or discontinued]. For costs and complete details of the coverage, call [or write] your insurance agent or the company [whichever is applicable].”

15.3(3) *Prohibited terms in life insurance and annuity policies.* No advertisement for a life insurance or annuity policy shall use the terms “investment,” “investment plan,” “founder’s plan,” “charter plan,” “expansion plan,” “profit,” “profits,” “profit sharing,” “interest plan,” “savings,” “savings plan,” “retirement plan,” or other similar term which has the capacity or tendency to mislead an insured or prospective insured to believe that the insurer is offering something other than an insurance policy or some benefit not available to other individuals of the same class and equal expectation of life. An advertisement shall not state that there are “no more premiums” or that premiums will “vanish” or “disappear” or use similar terms when such statement is not based on the guaranteed rates.

15.3(4) *Exclusions, limitations, exceptions and reductions.* Words and phrases used in an advertisement to describe policy exclusions, limitations, exceptions and reductions shall clearly, prominently and accurately indicate the negative or limited nature of the exclusions, limitations, exceptions and reductions.

An advertisement for a policy providing benefits for specified illnesses only, such as cancer, or other policies providing benefits that are limited in nature shall clearly and conspicuously in prominent type state the limited nature of the policy. The statement shall be worded in language identical to or substantially similar to the following: “THIS IS A LIMITED POLICY;” “THIS POLICY PROVIDES LIMITED BENEFITS;” or “THIS IS A CANCER-ONLY POLICY.”

15.3(5) *Use of statistics.* An advertisement shall not contain statistical information relating to any insurer or policy unless it accurately reflects recent and relevant facts. The source of any such statistics used in an advertisement shall be identified therein.

15.3(6) *Introductory, initial or special offers.*

a. An advertisement shall not directly or by implication represent that a policy is an introductory, initial or special offer, or that a person will receive advantages not available at a later date, or that the offer is available only to a specified group of persons, unless such is the fact.

b. An advertisement shall not offer a policy which utilizes a reduced initial premium rate in a manner which overemphasizes the availability and the amount of the initial reduced premium. When an insurer charges an initial premium that differs in amount from the amount of the renewal premium payable on the same mode, the advertisement shall not display the amount of the reduced initial premium either more frequently or more prominently than the renewal premium, and both the initial reduced premium and the renewal premium must be stated in each portion of the advertisement where the initial reduced premium appears. This paragraph shall not apply to annual renewable term policies.

15.3(7) *Testimonials or endorsements by third parties.*

a. Testimonials used in advertisements must be genuine, represent the current opinion of the author, be applicable to the policy advertised and be accurately reproduced. The insurer, in using a testimonial, makes as its own all of the statements contained therein, and the advertisement, including such statement, is subject to all the provisions of these rules.

b. If the person making a testimonial or an endorsement has a financial interest in the insurer or a related entity as a stockholder, director, officer, employee, or otherwise, such fact shall be disclosed in the advertisement. If a person is compensated for making a testimonial or endorsement, such fact shall be disclosed in the advertisement by language substantially as follows: "Paid Endorsement." This rule does not require disclosure of union "scale" wages required by union rules if the payment is actually for such "scale" for TV or radio performances. The payment of substantial amounts, directly or indirectly, for "travel and entertainment" for filming or recording of TV or radio advertisements constitutes compensation and requires disclosure. This rule does not apply to an institutional advertisement which has as its sole purpose the promotion of the insurer.

c. An advertisement which states or implies that an insurer or an insurance product has been approved or endorsed by any person or other organizations must also disclose any proprietary or other relationship between the parties.

15.3(8) *Disparaging and incomplete comparisons and statements.* An advertisement shall not directly or indirectly make unfair or incomplete comparisons of policies or benefits or comparisons of noncomparable policies of other insurers, and shall not disparage other insurers, their policies, services or business methods, and shall not disparage or unfairly minimize competing methods of marketing insurance. An advertisement shall not contain statements which are untrue in fact, or by implication misleading, with respect to the assets, corporate structure, financial standing, age or relative position of an insurer in the insurance business.

15.3(9) *Identity of insurer.*

a. The name of the actual insurer shall be clearly identified in all advertisements for a particular policy. An advertisement shall not use a trade name, insurance group designation, name of a parent company, name of a particular company division, service mark, slogan, symbol or other device which would have the capacity and tendency to misrepresent the true identity of an insurer.

b. No advertisement shall use any combination of words, symbols, or physical materials which by its content, phraseology, shape, color or other characteristics is so similar to combinations of words, symbols, or physical materials used by a municipal, state or federal agency that it would lead a reasonable individual to believe that the advertisement is approved, endorsed or accredited by an agency of the municipal, state, or federal government.

15.3(10) Disclosure requirements for life insurance and annuities.

a. An advertisement for a policy containing graded or modified benefits shall prominently display any limitation of benefits. If the premium is level and coverage decreases or increases with age or duration, such fact shall be prominently disclosed.

b. An advertisement for a policy with nonlevel premiums shall prominently describe the premium changes.

c. Dividends.

(1) An advertisement shall not state or imply that the payment or amount of dividends is guaranteed. If dividends for an annuity are illustrated, the illustration must be based on the insurer's illustrated scale and must contain a statement that the illustration is not to be construed as a guarantee or estimate of dividends to be paid in the future.

(2) An advertisement shall not state or imply that the illustrated scale under a participating policy or pure endowments will be or can be sufficient at any future time to ensure, without the further payment of premiums, the receipt of benefits, such as a paid-up policy, unless the advertisement clearly and precisely explains (1) what benefits or coverage would be provided at such time and (2) under what conditions this would occur.

d. An advertisement of a deferred annuity shall not state the net premium accumulation interest rate unless it discloses in close proximity thereto and with equal prominence the actual relationship between the gross and net premiums.

e. An advertisement that states the projected values of a policy must use the guaranteed interest rates in determining such projected values and, in addition, may show other projected values based on interest rates which comply with the illustrated scale. Any statements containing or based upon an interest rate higher than the guaranteed accumulation interest rates shall likewise set forth with equal prominence comparable statements containing or based upon the guaranteed accumulation interest rates. If the policy does not contain a provision for a guaranteed interest rate, any advertisement showing projected values must clearly state that the rates are not guaranteed. This subrule does not apply to an illustration or supplemental illustration subject to the provisions of the Life Illustrations Model Regulation, 191 IAC 14.

f. An advertisement or presentation which does not recognize the time value of money through the use of appropriate interest adjustments shall not be used for comparing the cost of two or more life insurance policies. Such advertisement may be used for the purpose of demonstrating the cash flow pattern of a policy if such advertisement is accompanied by a statement disclosing that the advertisement does not recognize that, because of interest, a dollar in the future may not have the same value as a dollar at the time of the presentation.

g. An advertisement of benefits shall not display guaranteed and nonguaranteed benefits as a single sum unless they are also shown separately in close proximity thereto.

h. A statement regarding the use of life insurance cost indexes shall include an explanation that the indexes are useful only for the comparison of the relative costs of two or more similar policies.

i. A life insurance cost index which reflects dividends or an equivalent level annual dividend shall be accompanied by a statement that it is based on the insurer's illustrated scale and is not guaranteed.

15.3(11) Special offers. Advertisements, applications, requests for additional information and similar materials are prohibited if they state or imply that the recipient has been individually selected to be offered insurance or has had the recipient's eligibility for the insurance individually determined in advance when the advertisement is directed to all individuals in a group or to all individuals whose names appear on a mailing list.

15.3(12) Disclosure requirement. In an advertisement that is an invitation to contract for an accident and sickness insurance policy that is guaranteed renewable, cancelable or renewable at the option of the company, the advertisement shall disclose that the insurer has the right to increase premium rates if the policy so provides.

15.3(13) Group or quasi-group implications.

a. An advertisement of a particular policy shall not state or imply that prospective insureds become group or quasi-group members covered under a group policy and, as members, enjoy special rates or underwriting privileges, unless that is the fact.

b. This rule prohibits the solicitation of a particular class, such as governmental employees, by use of advertisements which state or imply that their class membership entitles the member to reduced rates on a group or other basis when, in fact, the policy being advertised is sold only on an individual basis at regular rates.

c. Advertisements that indicate that a particular coverage or policy is exclusively for “preferred risks” or a particular segment of the population or that a particular segment of the population is an acceptable risk, when the distinctions are not maintained in the issuance of policies, are prohibited.

d. An advertisement to join an association, trust or discretionary group that is also an invitation to contract for insurance coverage shall clearly disclose that the applicant will be purchasing both membership in the association, trust or discretionary group and insurance coverage. The insurer shall solicit insurance coverage on a separate and distinct application that requires a separate signature. The separate and distinct application required need not be on a separate document or contained in a separate mailing. The insurance program shall be presented so as not to conceal the fact that the prospective members are purchasing insurance as well as applying for membership, if that is the case. Similarly, the use of terms such as “enroll” or “join” to imply group or blanket insurance coverage is prohibited when that is not the fact.

e. Advertisements for group or franchise group plans that provide a common benefit or a common combination of benefits shall not imply that the insurance coverage is tailored or designed specifically for that group, unless that is the fact.

191—15.4(507B) Life insurance cost and benefit disclosure requirements.

15.4(1) The definition of terms applicable to this rule and its appendices will be found in Appendix I.

15.4(2) Except as hereafter exempted, this rule shall apply to any solicitation, negotiation or procurement of life insurance occurring within this state. This rule shall apply to any insurer issuing life insurance contracts including fraternal benefit societies.

Unless otherwise specifically included, this rule shall not apply to:

a. Annuities.

b. Credit life insurance.

c. Group life insurance, except for disclosures relating to preneed funeral contracts or prearrangements as provided herein. These disclosure requirements shall extend to the issuance or delivery of certificates as well as to the master policy.

d. Life insurance policies issued in connection with pension and welfare plans as defined by and which are subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

e. Variable life insurance under which the death benefits and cash values vary in accordance with unit values of investments held in a separate account.

15.4(3) Prior to or at delivery of a life insurance policy, an insurer or producer shall provide the prospective purchaser the following:

a. A life insurance buyer’s guide in the current form prescribed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners or language approved by the commissioner of insurance, and

b. A policy summary as defined in Appendix I.

15.4(4) A policy summary is not required to include information available in the policy form or illustration. If an illustration subject to the provisions of 191 IAC 14, Life Insurance Illustrations Model Regulation, is used in the sale of a policy, delivery of a policy summary is not required. A policy summary may not include any element that is not guaranteed.

191—15.5(507B) Health insurance sales to individuals 65 years of age or older. The sale of duplicate Medicare supplement insurance is prohibited.

191—15.6(507B) Preneed funeral contracts or prearrangements.

15.6(1) Advertising. An advertisement for the solicitation or sale of a preneed funeral contract or prearrangement which is funded or to be funded by a life insurance policy or annuity contract shall adequately disclose the following:

a. The fact that a life insurance policy or annuity contract is involved or being used to fund a prearrangement, and

b. The nature of the relationship among the soliciting producer or producers, the provider of the funeral or cemetery merchandise or services, the administrator and any other person.

15.6(2) Application. Prior to accepting an application, initial premium or deposit, an insurer or producer must adequately disclose:

a. The relationship of the life insurance policy or annuity contract to the funding of the prearrangement and the nature and existence of any guarantees relating to the prearrangement;

b. The impact on the prearrangement of any:

(1) Changes in the life insurance policy or annuity contract including, but not limited to, changes in the assignment, beneficiary designation or use of the proceeds,

(2) Penalties to be incurred by the policyholder as a result of failure to make premium payments,

(3) Penalties to be incurred or moneys to be received as a result of cancellation or surrender of the life insurance policy or annuity contract;

c. A list of the merchandise and services which are supplied or contracted for in the prearrangement and all relevant information concerning the price of the funeral services, including an indication that the purchase price is either guaranteed at the time of purchase or to be determined at the time of need;

d. All relevant information concerning what occurs and whether any entitlements or obligations arise if there is a difference between the proceeds of the life insurance policy or annuity contract and the amount actually needed to fund the prearrangement;

e. Any penalties or restrictions including, but not limited to, geographic restrictions or the inability of the provider to perform, on the delivery of merchandise, services or the prearrangement guarantee; and

f. The fact that a sales commission or other form of compensation is being paid and, if so, the identity of the person to whom it is paid.

191—15.7(507B) Twisting prohibited. No insurer or producer shall engage in the act of twisting.

191—15.8(507B) Sales presentation guidelines.

15.8(1) Required disclosures. A producer shall inform the prospective purchaser, prior to commencing an insurance sales presentation, that the producer is acting as an insurance producer and inform the prospective purchaser of the producer's full name and the full name of the insurance company which the producer will represent in the insurance sales presentation. In sales situations in which a producer is not involved, the insurer shall identify its full name to a prospective purchaser.

15.8(2) Improper sales tactics.

a. Producers and insurers shall not employ any method of marketing or tactic which uses undue pressure, force, fright, threat, whether explicit or implied, to solicit the purchase of insurance.

b. A producer shall not, without good cause:

(1) Allow a producer or a relative of a producer to be named as owner or beneficiary of a life insurance policy or annuity insuring the life of an unrelated insurance customer. Transactions which involve nominal interim ownership immediately precedent to transfer of ownership into trust are exempt from this subrule;

(2) Be named as a beneficiary in a will of an unrelated insurance customer;

(3) Obtain a personal loan or a monetary gift from an unrelated insurance customer;

(4) Execute a transaction for an insurance customer without authorization by the customer to do so; or

(5) Commit any act which shows that the producer has exerted undue influence over a person to take advantage of the producer/customer relationship.

c. Producers and insurers shall not, without good cause:

(1) Fail or refuse to furnish any individual, upon reasonable request, information to which that individual is entitled, or to respond to a formal written request or complaint from any individual.

(2) Sell an insurance policy or rider to an individual which is a duplication of a policy or rider which the individual owns or for which the individual has applied at the time of the sale.

15.8(3) Prohibited designations and fees.

a. When an insurance producer is engaged only in the sale of insurance policies or annuities, the insurance producer shall not hold the producer out, directly or indirectly, to the public as a "financial planner," "investment adviser," "consultant," "financial counselor," or any other specialist solely engaged in the business of financial planning or giving advice relating to investments, insurance, real estate, tax matters or trust and estate matters. This provision does not preclude insurance producers who hold some form of formal recognized financial planning or consultant certification or designation from using this certification or designation when they are only selling insurance.

b. An insurance producer shall not engage in the business of financial planning without disclosing to the client prior to the execution of the agreement required by paragraph "c" or to the solicitation of the sale of a product or service that the producer is also an insurance producer and that a commission for the sale of an insurance product will be received in addition to a fee for financial planning, if such is the case. The disclosure requirement under this paragraph may be met by including the disclosure in any disclosure required by federal or state securities law.

c. An insurance producer shall not charge fees other than commissions unless such fees are based upon a written agreement signed by the client in advance of the performance of the services under the agreement. A copy of the agreement must be provided to the client at the time the agreement is signed by the client. The agreement must specifically state:

(1) The service for which the fee is to be charged;

(2) The amount of the fee to be charged or how it will be determined or calculated; and

(3) That the client is under no obligation to purchase any insurance product through the insurance producer or consultant.

The insurance producer shall retain a copy of the agreement for not less than three years after completion of services, and a copy shall be available to the commissioner upon request.

d. Producers shall not charge an additional fee for services that are customarily associated with the solicitation, negotiation or servicing of policies. This prohibition shall not apply to assigned risk policies and commercial property and casualty policies. Any additional fee that a producer intends to charge for assigned risk policies and commercial property and casualty policies must be fully disclosed to the insured.

15.8(4) Suitability. A producer shall not recommend to any person the purchase, sale or exchange of any life insurance policy, annuity or any rider, endorsement or amendment thereto, without reasonable grounds to believe that the transaction or recommendation is not unsuitable for the person based upon reasonable inquiry concerning the person's insurance objectives, financial situation and needs, age and other relevant information known by the producer. For purposes of this subrule, when a producer recommends a group life insurance policy or annuity, "person" shall refer to the intended group policyowner.

191—15.9(507B) Right to return a life insurance policy or annuity (free look). The owner of an individual policy has the right, within ten days after receipt of a life insurance policy or annuity, to a free-look period. During this period, the policyowner may return the life insurance policy or annuity to the insurer at its home office, branch office, or to the producer through whom it was purchased. If so returned, the premium paid will be promptly refunded, the policy or annuity voided and the parties returned to the same position as if a policy or annuity had not been issued. If the transaction involved a replacement, the length of the free-look period will be determined according to 191—Chapter 16.

If the transaction involved a variable product, the amount to be refunded shall be determined according to the policy language. The calculations must comply with the relevant rule in either 191—Chapter 16, Replacement of Life Insurance and Annuities, or 191—Chapter 33, Variable Life Insurance Model Regulation.

191—15.10(507B) Uninsured/underinsured automobile coverage—notice required.

15.10(1) Contents of notice. Automobile insurance policies delivered in this state shall include a notice which contains and is limited to the following language:

NOTICE REGARDING UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED COVERAGE

Uninsured/underinsured coverage does not cover damage done to your vehicle. It provides benefits only for bodily injury caused by an uninsured or underinsured motorist. If you wish to be insured for damage done to your vehicle, you must have collision coverage. Please check your policy to make sure you have the coverage desired.

15.10(2) Form of notice. Notice may be provided on a separate form or may be stamped on the declaration page of the policy. The notice shall be provided in conjunction with all new policies issued. Notice may be provided at the time of application but shall in no case be provided later than the time of delivery of the new policy. Insurers may inform applicants that the notice in this rule is required by the insurance division.

191—15.11(507B) Unfair discrimination.

15.11(1) Sex discrimination.

a. A contract shall not be denied to an individual based solely on that individual's sex or marital status. No benefits, terms, conditions or type of coverage shall be restricted, modified, excluded, or reduced on the basis of the sex or marital status of the insured or prospective insured except to the extent permitted under the Iowa Code or Iowa Administrative Code. An insurer may consider marital status for the purpose of defining individuals eligible for dependents' benefits. This subrule does not apply to group life insurance policies or group annuity contracts issued in connection with pension and welfare plans which are subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

b. Specific examples of practices prohibited by this subrule include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Denying coverage to individuals of one sex employed at home, employed part-time or employed by relatives when coverage is offered to individuals of the opposite sex similarly employed.

(2) Denying policy riders to persons of one sex when the riders are available to persons of the opposite sex.

(3) Denying a policy under which maternity coverage is available to an unmarried female when that same policy is available to a married female.

(4) Denying, under group contracts, dependent coverage to spouses of employees of one sex, when dependent coverage is available to spouses of employees of the opposite sex.

(5) Denying disability income coverage to employed members of one sex when coverage is offered to members of the opposite sex similarly employed.

(6) Treating complications of pregnancy differently from any other illness or sickness under the contract.

(7) Restricting, reducing, modifying, or excluding benefits relating to coverage involving the genital organs of only one sex.

(8) Offering lower maximum monthly benefits to members of one sex than to members of the opposite sex who are in the same underwriting and occupational classification under a disability income contract.

(9) Offering more restrictive benefit periods and more restrictive definitions of disability to members of one sex than to members of the opposite sex in the same underwriting and occupational classifications under a disability income contract.

(10) Establishing different contract conditions based on gender which limit the benefit options a policyholder may exercise.

(11) Limiting the amount of coverage due to an insured's or prospective insured's marital status unless such limitation applies only to coverage for dependents and is uniformly applied to males and females.

c. When rates are differentiated on the basis of sex, an insurer must, upon the request of the commissioner of insurance, justify the rate differential in writing to the satisfaction of the commissioner. All rates shall be based on sound actuarial principles or a valid classification system and actual experience statistics, if available.

d. This subrule shall not affect the right of fraternal benefit societies to determine eligibility requirements for membership. If a fraternal benefit society does, however, admit members of both sexes, this subrule is applicable to the insurance benefits available to its members.

15.11(2) *Physical or mental impairment.* No contract, benefits, terms, conditions or type of coverage shall be denied, restricted, modified, excluded or reduced solely on the basis of physical or mental impairment of the insured or prospective insured except where based on sound actuarial principles or related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience. For purposes of this subrule, both blindness and partial blindness shall be considered a physical impairment.

15.11(3) *Income discrimination.* An insurer shall not refuse to issue, limit the amount or apply different rates to individuals of the same class in the sale of individual life insurance based solely upon the prospective insured's legal source or level of income, unless such action is based on sound actuarial principles or is related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience. The portion of this subrule pertaining to level of income does not:

a. Apply to the sale of disability income insurance of any kind or of any insurance designed to protect against economic loss due to a disruption in the regular flow of an individual's earned income;

b. Prohibit the sale of any insurance or annuity which is made available only to employees;

c. Prohibit basing the amount of insurance sold to an employee on a multiple or a percentage of the employee's salary or prohibit limiting availability to employees who have achieved a certain employment status as defined by the employer;

d. Prohibit insurers from providing life or health insurance as an incidental benefit through a qualified pension plan;

e. Prohibit insurers from applying suitability standards which include income as a factor in the sale of any life insurance or annuity products;

f. Prohibit insurers from establishing maximum or minimum amounts of insurance that will be issued to individuals so long as this is pursuant to a preexisting specialized marketing strategy which the insurer can demonstrate is related to the financial capacity of the insurer to write business or to bona fide transaction costs.

15.11(4) Domestic abuse. A contract shall not be denied to an individual based solely on the fact that such individual has been or is believed to have been a victim of domestic abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 236.2.

191—15.12(507B) Testing restrictions of insurance applications for the human immunodeficiency virus.

15.12(1) Written release. No insurer shall obtain a test of any individual in connection with an application for insurance for the presence of an antibody to the human immunodeficiency virus unless the individual to be tested provides a written release on a form which contains the following information:

a. A statement of the purpose, content, use, and meaning of the test.

b. A statement regarding disclosure of the test results including information explaining the effect of releasing the information to an insurer.

c. A statement of the purpose for which test results may be used.

15.12(2) Form. A preapproved form is provided in Appendix III. An insurer wishing to utilize a form which deviates from the language in the appendix to these rules shall submit the form to the insurance division for approval. Any form containing, but not limited to, the language in the appendix shall be deemed approved.

191—15.13(507B) Records maintenance.

15.13(1) Complaint and business records.

a. An insurer shall maintain its books, records, documents and other business records in such an order that data regarding complaints, claims, rating, underwriting and marketing are accessible and retrievable for examination by the insurance commissioner.

b. An insurer shall maintain a complete record of all the complaints received since the date of its last examination by the insurer's state of domicile or port-of-entry state. This record shall indicate the total number of complaints, their classification by line of insurance, the nature of each complaint, the disposition of each complaint, and the time it took to process each complaint. Appendix IV sets forth the minimum information required to be contained in the complaint record.

15.13(2) Insurer's control over advertisements. Every insurer shall establish and at all times maintain a system of control over the content, form, and method of dissemination of all advertisements which explain a particular policy. All such advertisements, whether written, created, designed or presented by the insurer or its appointed producer, shall be the responsibility of the insurer whose particular policies are so advertised. As part of this requirement, each insurer shall maintain at its home or principal office a complete file containing a specimen copy of every printed, published or prepared advertisement of its policies, with a notation indicating the manner and extent of distribution and the form number of any policy advertised. Such file shall be subject to inspection by the insurance division. All such advertisements shall be maintained for a period of either four years or until the filing of the next regular report on examination of the insurer, whichever is the longer period of time.

15.13(3) Education and training materials. Every insurer shall establish and maintain a system of control over the content and form of all material used by the insurer or any of its employees for the recruitment, training, and education of producers in the sale of insurance. Upon request, copies of these materials shall be made available to the commissioner.

191—15.14(507B) Enforcement section—cease and desist and penalty orders. If, after hearing, the commissioner finds that an insurer or producer has engaged in an unfair trade practice in violation of these rules or unfair competition or unfair and deceptive acts or practices in violation of Iowa Code chapter 507B, the commissioner shall reduce the findings to writing and shall issue and cause to be served upon the insurer or producer charged with the violation a copy of the findings in an order requiring the insurer or producer to cease and desist from engaging in the act or practice. The commissioner also may order one or more of the following:

1. Payment of a monetary penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation, but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of \$10,000. If the insurer or producer knew or reasonably should have known that its actions were in violation of these rules, the penalty shall be not more than \$5,000 for each violation but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of \$50,000;
2. Suspension or revocation of the insurer's certificate of authority or the producer's license if the insurer or producer knew or reasonably should have known that it was in violation of this rule;
3. Full disclosure by the insurer of all terms and conditions of the policy to the policyowner;
4. Payment of the costs of the investigation and administrative expenses related to any violation.

191—15.15 to 15.30 Reserved.

DIVISION II
CLAIMS

191—15.31(507B) General claims settlement guidelines. No insurer shall issue checks or drafts in partial settlement of a loss or claim under a specific coverage that contains language purporting to release the insurer or its insured from total liability.

191—15.32(507B) Prompt payment of certain health claims. Effective July 1, 2002, the following provisions apply:

15.32(1) Definitions and scope.

a. For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

“*Circumstance requiring special treatment*” means:

1. A claim that an insurer has a reasonable basis to suspect may be fraudulent or that fraud or a material misrepresentation may have occurred under the benefit certificate or policy or in obtaining such certificate or policy; or
2. A matter beyond the insurer's control, such as an act of God, insurrection, strike or other similar labor dispute, fire or power outage or, for a group-sponsored health plan, the failure of the sponsoring group to pay premiums to the insurer in a timely manner; or
3. Similar unique or special circumstances which would reasonably prevent an insurer from paying an otherwise clean claim within 30 days.

“*Clean claim*” means clean claim as defined in 2001 Iowa Acts, chapter 69, section 8(2b).

“*Coordination of benefits for third-party liability*” means a claim for benefits by a covered individual who has coverage under more than one health benefit plan.

“*Insurer*” means insurer as defined in 2001 Iowa Acts, chapter 69, section 7.

“Properly completed billing instrument” means:

1. In the case of a health care provider that is not a health care professional:
 - The Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA) Form 1450, also known as Form UB-92, or similar form adopted by its successor Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) as adopted by the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) with data element usage prescribed in the UB-92 National Uniform Billing Data Elements Specification Manual, or
 - The electronic format for institutional claims adopted as a standard by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to Section 1173 of the Social Security Act; or
2. In the case of a health care provider that is a health care professional:
 - The HCFA Form 1500 paper form or its successor as adopted by the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) and further defined by the NUCC in its implementation guide; or
 - The electronic format for professional claims adopted as a standard by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to Section 1173 of the Social Security Act; and
3. Any other information reasonably necessary for an insurer to process a claim for benefits under the benefit certificate or policy with the insured contract.
 - b.* Scope. This subrule applies to claims submitted to an insurer as defined above on or after July 1, 2002, and is limited to policies issued, issued for delivery, or renewed in this state.

15.32(2) *Insurer duty to promptly pay claims and pay interest.*

a. Insurers subject to this subrule shall either accept and pay or deny a clean claim for health care benefits under a benefit certificate or policy issued by the insurer within 30 days after the insurer’s receipt of such claim. A clean claim is considered to be paid on the date upon which a check, draft, or other valid negotiable instrument is written. Insurers shall implement procedures to ensure that these payments are promptly delivered.

b. Insurers or entities that administer or process claims on behalf of an insurer who fail to pay a clean claim within 30 days after the insurer’s receipt of a properly completed billing instrument shall pay interest. Interest shall accrue at the rate of 10 percent per annum commencing on the thirty-first day after the insurer’s receipt of all information necessary to establish a clean claim. Interest will be paid to the claimant or provider based upon who is entitled to the benefit payment.

c. Insurers shall have 30 days from the receipt of a claim to request additional information to establish a clean claim. An insurer shall provide a written or electronic notice to the claimant or health care provider if additional information is needed to establish a clean claim. The notice shall include a full explanation of the information necessary to establish a clean claim.

d. Effective January 1, 2003, when a claim involves coordination of benefits, an insurer is required to comply with the requirements of this subrule when that insurer’s liability has been determined.

15.32(3) *Certain insurance products exempt.* Claims paid under the following insurance products are exempt from the provisions of this subrule: liability insurance, workers’ compensation or similar insurance, automobile or homeowners insurance, medical payment insurance, disability income insurance, or long-term care insurance.

This rule is intended to implement 2001 Iowa Acts, chapter 69, section 8, and Iowa Code section 507B.4 as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, chapter 69.

191—15.33(507B) Audit procedures for medical claims.

15.33(1) *Prohibitions.* This rule applies to all claims paid on or after January 1, 2002:

a. Absent a reasonable basis to suspect fraud, an insurer may not audit a claim more than two years after the submission of the claim to the insurer. Nothing in this rule prohibits an insurer from requesting all records associated with the claim.

b. Absent a reasonable basis to suspect fraud, an insurer may not audit a claim with a billed charge of less than \$25.

15.33(2) Standards.

- a. In auditing a claim, the insurer must make a reasonable effort to ensure that the audit is performed by a person or persons with appropriate qualifications for the type of audit being performed.
- b. In auditing a claim, the auditor must use the coding guidelines and instructions that were in effect on the date the medical service was provided.

15.33(3) Contents of audit request. All correspondence regarding the audit of a claim must include the following information:

- a. The name, address, telephone number and contact person of the insurer conducting the audit,
- b. The name of the entity performing the audit if not the insurer,
- c. The purpose of the audit, and
- d. If included in the audit, the specific coding or billing procedure that is under review.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 507B.4, subsection 9, as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, chapter 69.

191—15.34 to 15.40 Reserved.

191—15.41(507B) Claims settlement guidelines for property and casualty insurance. For purposes of this rule, “insurer” means property and casualty insurers.

15.41(1) An insurer shall fully disclose to first-party claimants all pertinent benefits, coverages or other provisions of a policy or contract under which a claim is presented.

15.41(2) Within 30 days after receipt by the insurer of properly executed proofs of loss, the first-party property claimant shall be advised of the acceptance or denial of the claim by the insurer. No insurer shall deny a claim on the grounds of a specific policy provision, condition or exclusion unless reference to such provision, condition, or exclusion is included in the denial. The denial must be given to the claimant in writing, and the claim file of the insurer shall contain documentation of the denial.

When there is a reasonable basis supported by specific information available for review by the commissioner that the first-party claimant has fraudulently caused or contributed to the loss, the insurer is relieved from the requirements of this subrule. However, the claimant shall be advised of the acceptance or denial of the claim within a reasonable time for full investigation after receipt by the insurer of a properly executed proof of loss.

15.41(3) If the insurer needs more time to determine whether a first-party claim should be accepted or denied, the insurer shall so notify the first-party claimant within 30 days after receipt of the proof of loss and give the reasons more time is needed. If the investigation remains incomplete, the insurer shall, 45 days from the initial notification and every 45 days thereafter, send to the claimant a letter setting forth the reasons additional time is needed for investigation.

When there is a reasonable basis supported by specific information available for review by the commissioner for suspecting that the first-party claimant has fraudulently caused or contributed to the loss, the insurer is relieved from the requirements of this subrule. However, the claimant shall be advised of the acceptance or denial of the claim by the insurer within a reasonable time for full investigation after receipt by the insurer of a properly executed proof of loss.

15.41(4) Insurers shall not fail to settle first-party claims on the basis that responsibility for payment should be assumed by others except as may otherwise be provided by policy provisions.

15.41(5) No insurer shall make statements indicating that the rights of a third-party claimant may be impaired if a form or release, other than a release to obtain medical records, is not completed within a given period of time unless the statement is given for the purpose of notifying the third-party claimant of the provision of a statute of limitations.

15.41(6) The insurer shall affirm or deny liability on claims within a reasonable time and shall tender payment within 30 days of affirmation of liability, if the amount of the claim is determined and not in dispute. In claims where multiple coverages are involved, payments which are not in dispute under one of the coverages and where the payee is known should be tendered within 30 days if such payment would terminate the insurer's known liability under that coverage.

15.41(7) No producer shall conceal from a first-party claimant benefits, coverages or other provisions of any insurance policy or insurance contract when such benefits, coverages or other provisions are pertinent to a claim.

15.41(8) A claim shall not be denied on the basis of failure to exhibit property unless there is documentation of breach of the policy provisions to exhibit or cooperate in the claim investigation.

15.41(9) No insurer shall deny a claim based upon the failure of a first-party claimant to give written notice of loss within a specified time limit unless the written notice is a written policy condition. An insurer may deny a claim if the claimant's failure to give written notice after being requested to do so is so unreasonable as to constitute a breach of the claimant's duty to cooperate with the insurer.

15.41(10) No insurer shall indicate to a first-party claimant on a payment draft, check or in any accompanying letter that said payment is "final" or "a release" of any claim unless the policy limit has been paid or there has been a compromise settlement agreed to by the first-party claimant and the insurer as to coverage and amount payable under the contract.

15.41(11) No insurer shall request or require any insured to submit to a polygraph examination unless authorized under the applicable insurance contracts and state law.

191—15.42(507B) Acknowledgment of communications by property and casualty insurers. For purposes of this rule, "insurer" means property and casualty insurers.

15.42(1) Upon receiving notification of a claim, an insurer shall, within 15 days, acknowledge the receipt of such notice unless payment is made within that period of time. If an acknowledgment is made by means other than in writing, an appropriate notation of the acknowledgment shall be made in the claim file of the insurer and dated.

15.42(2) Upon receipt of any inquiry from the Iowa insurance division regarding a claim, an insurer shall, within 21 days of receipt of such inquiry, furnish the division with an adequate response to the inquiry, in duplicate.

15.42(3) The insurer shall reply within 15 days to all pertinent communications from a claimant which reasonably suggest that a response is expected.

15.42(4) Upon receiving notification of claim, an insurer shall promptly provide necessary claim forms, instructions and reasonable assistance so that first-party claimants can comply with the policy conditions and the insurer's reasonable requirements. Compliance with this subrule within 15 days of notification of a claim shall constitute compliance with subrule 15.42(1).

191—15.43(507B) Standards for settlement of automobile insurance claims.

15.43(1) Loss calculation and deviation guidelines.

a. Loss calculation. When the insurance policy provides for the adjustment and settlement of first-party automobile total losses on the basis of actual cash value or replacement with another automobile of like kind and quality, one of the following methods shall apply:

(1) The insurer may elect to offer a replacement automobile that is at least comparable in that it will be by the same manufacturer, same or newer year, similar body style, similar options and mileage as the insured vehicle and in as good or better overall condition and available for inspection at a licensed dealer within a reasonable distance of the insured's residence. All applicable taxes, license fees and other fees incident to the transfer of evidence of ownership of the automobile shall be paid by the insurer, at no cost to the insured, other than any deductible provided in the policy. The offer and any rejection thereof must be documented in the claim file.

(2) The insurer may elect a cash settlement based upon the actual cost, less any deductible provided in the policy, to purchase a comparable automobile including all applicable taxes, license fees and other fees incident to transfer of evidence of ownership of a comparable automobile. Such cost may be derived from:

1. The cost of two or more comparable automobiles in the local market area when comparable automobiles are available or were available within the last 90 days to consumers in the local market area; or

2. The cost of two or more comparable automobiles in areas proximate to the local market area, including the closest major metropolitan areas within or without the state, that are available or were available within the last 90 days to consumers when comparable automobiles are not available in the local market area; or

3. One of two or more quotations obtained by the insurer from two or more licensed dealers located within the local market area when the cost of comparable automobiles is not available; or

4. Any source for determining statistically valid fair market values that meet all of the following criteria:

- The source shall give primary consideration to the values of vehicles in the local market area and may consider data on vehicles outside the area.

- The source's database shall produce values for at least 85 percent of all makes and models for the last 15 model years taking into account the values of all major options for such vehicles.

- The source shall produce fair market values based on current data available from the area surrounding the location where the insured vehicle was principally garaged or a necessary expansion of parameters (such as time and area) to ensure statistical validity.

(3) If the insurer is notified within 35 days of the receipt of the claim draft that the insured cannot purchase a comparable vehicle for such market value, the insured shall have a right of recourse. The insurer shall reopen its claim file and the following procedure(s) shall apply:

1. The insurer may locate a comparable vehicle by the same manufacturer, same or newer year, similar body style and similar options and price range for the insured for the market value determined by the insurer at the time of settlement. Any such vehicle must be available through a licensed dealer; or

2. The insurer shall either pay the insured the difference between the market value before applicable deductions and the cost of the comparable vehicle of like kind and quality which the insured has located, or negotiate and effect the purchase of this vehicle for the insured; or

3. The insurer may elect to offer a replacement in accordance with the provisions set forth in subrule 15.43(1); or

4. The insurer may conclude the loss settlement as provided for under the appraisal section of the insurance contract in force at the time of loss. This appraisal shall be considered as binding against both parties, but shall not preclude or waive any other rights either party has under the insurance contract or a common law.

The insurer is not required to take action under this subrule if its documentation to the insured at the time of settlement included written notification of the availability and location of a specified and comparable vehicle of the same manufacturer, same or newer year, similar body style and similar options in as good or better condition as the total-loss vehicle which could have been purchased for the market value determined by the insurer before applicable deductions. The documentation shall include the vehicle identification number.

b. Deviation. When a first-party automobile total loss is settled on a basis which deviates from the methods described in paragraph "a," the deviation must be supported by documentation giving particulars of the automobile's condition. Any deductions from such cost, including deduction for salvage, must be measurable, discernible, itemized and specified as to dollar amount and shall be appropriate in amount. The basis for such settlement shall be fully explained to the first-party claimant.

15.43(2) Where liability and damages are reasonably clear, an insurer shall not recommend that third-party claimants make claims under their own policies solely to avoid paying claims under the insurer's policy.

15.43(3) The insurer shall not require a claimant to travel an unreasonable distance either to inspect a replacement automobile, to obtain a repair estimate or to have the automobile repaired at a specific repair shop.

15.43(4) The insurer shall, upon the claimant's request, include the first-party claimant's deductible, if any, in subrogation demands. Subrogation recoveries shall be shared on a proportionate basis with the first-party claimant, unless the deductible amount has been otherwise recovered. No deduction for expenses shall be made from the deductible recovery unless an outside attorney is retained to collect such recovery. The deduction may then be for only a pro-rata share of the allocated loss adjustment expense.

15.43(5) Vehicle repairs. If partial losses are settled on the basis of a written estimate prepared by or for the insurer, the insurer shall supply the insured a copy of the estimate upon which the settlement is based. The estimate prepared by or for the insurer shall be reasonable, in accordance with applicable policy provisions, and of an amount which will allow for repairs to be made in a workmanlike manner. If the insured subsequently claims, based upon a written estimate which the insured obtains, that necessary repairs will exceed the written estimate prepared by or for the insurer, the insurer shall (1) pay the difference between the written estimate and a higher estimate obtained by the insured, or (2) promptly provide the insured with the name of at least one repair shop that will make the repairs for the amount of the written estimate. If the insurer designates only one or two such repair shops, the insurer shall ensure that the repairs are performed according to automobile industry standards. The insurer shall maintain documentation of all such communications.

15.43(6) When the amount claimed is reduced because of betterment or depreciation, all information for such reduction shall be contained in the claim file. Such deductions shall be itemized and specified as to dollar amount and shall be appropriate for the amount of deductions.

15.43(7) When the insurer elects to repair an automobile, the insurer shall cause the damaged automobile to be restored to its condition prior to the loss at no additional cost to the claimant other than as stated in the policy, within a reasonable period of time.

15.43(8) Storage and towing. The insurer shall provide reasonable notice to an insured prior to termination of payment for automobile storage charges. The insurer shall provide reasonable time for the insured to remove the vehicle from storage prior to the termination of payment. Unless the insurer has provided an insured with the name of a specific towing company prior to the insured's use of another towing company, the insurer shall pay all reasonable towing charges.

15.43(9) Betterment. Betterment deductions are allowable only if the deductions reflect a measurable decrease in market value attributable to the poorer condition of, or prior damage to, the vehicle. Betterment deductions must be measurable, itemized, specified as to dollar amount and documented in the claim file.

***15.43(10)** Diminished value. In the case of a third-party claim for repair of a vehicle, diminished value shall be considered as an additional measure of damages if the repairs did not fully restore the vehicle to its preaccident condition as measured by market value. Each insurer shall maintain a system of supervision and control to ensure compliance with this subrule.

191—15.44(507B) Standards for determining replacement cost and actual cost values.

15.44(1) *Replacement cost.* When the policy provides for the adjustment and settlement of first-party losses based on replacement cost, the following shall apply:

a. When a loss requires repair or replacement of an item or part, any consequential physical damage incurred in making such repair or replacement not otherwise excluded by the policy shall be included in the loss. The insured shall not have to pay for betterment or any other cost except for the applicable deductible.

*At its meeting held August 13, 2003, the Administrative Rules Review Committee voted to delay the August 27, 2003, effective date until adjournment of the 2004 Session of the General Assembly.

b. When a loss requires replacement of items and the replaced items do not match in quality, color or size, the insurer shall replace as much of the item as is necessary to result in a reasonably uniform appearance within the same line of sight. This subrule applies to interior and exterior losses. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. The insured shall not bear any cost over the applicable deductible, if any.

15.44(2) Actual cash value.

a. When the insurance policy provides for the adjustment and settlement of losses on an actual cash value basis on residential fire and extended coverage, the insurer shall determine the actual cash value. "Actual cash value" means replacement cost of property at time of loss, less depreciation, if any. Alternatively, an insurer may use market value in determining actual cash value. Upon the insured's request, the insurer shall provide a copy of the claim file worksheet(s) detailing any and all deductions for depreciation.

b. In cases in which the insured's interest is limited because the property has nominal or no economic value, or a value disproportionate to replacement cost less depreciation, the determination of actual cash value as set forth above is not required. In such cases, the insurer shall provide, upon the insured's request, a written explanation of the basis for limiting the amount of recovery along with the amount payable under the policy.

15.44(3) Applicability. This rule does not apply to automobile insurance claims.

191—15.45(507B) Guidelines for use of aftermarket crash parts in motor vehicles.

15.45(1) Identification. All aftermarket crash parts supplied for use in this state shall comply with the identification requirements of Iowa Code section 537B.4.

15.45(2) Like kind and quality. An insurer shall not require the use of aftermarket crash parts in the repair of an automobile unless the aftermarket crash part is certified by a nationally recognized entity to be at least equal in kind and quality to the original equipment manufacturer part in terms of fit, quality and performance, or that the part complies with federal safety standards.

15.45(3) Contents of notice. Any automobile insurance policy delivered in this state that pays benefits based on the cost of aftermarket crash parts or that requires the insured to pay the difference between the cost of original equipment manufacturer parts and the cost of aftermarket crash parts shall include a notice which contains and is limited to the following language:

NOTICE—PAYMENT FOR AFTERMARKET CRASH PARTS

Physical damage coverage under this policy includes payment for aftermarket crash parts. If you repair the vehicle using more expensive original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts, you may pay the difference. Any warranties applicable to these replacement parts are provided by the manufacturer or distributor of these parts rather than the manufacturer of your vehicle.

15.45(4) Form of notice. Notice may be provided on a separate form or may be printed prominently on the declaration page of the policy. The notice shall be provided in conjunction with all new policies issued. Notice may be provided at the time of application, but shall in no case be provided later than the time of delivery of the new policy. Insurers may inform applicants that the insurance division requires the notice in this rule.

191—15.46 to 15.50 Reserved.

DIVISION III
DISCLOSURE FOR SMALL FACE AMOUNT LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

191—15.51(507B) Purpose. The purpose of these rules is to ensure the provision of meaningful information to the purchasers of small face amount life insurance policies. The rules in this division apply to all small face amount policies not exempted under rule 15.53(507B) that are issued on or after July 1, 2004.

191—15.52(507B) Definition. “*Small face amount policy*” means a life insurance policy or certificate with an initial face amount of \$15,000 or less.

191—15.53(507B) Exemptions. These rules apply to all group and individual life insurance policies and certificates except:

1. Variable life insurance;
2. Individual and group annuity contracts;
3. Credit life insurance;
4. Group or individual policies of life insurance issued to members of an employer group or other permitted group when:
 - Every plan of coverage was selected by the employer or other group representative;
 - Some portion of the premium is paid by the group or through payroll deduction; and
 - Group underwriting or simplified underwriting is used; and
5. Policies and certificates where an illustration has been provided pursuant to the requirements of 191—Chapter 14.

191—15.54(507B) Disclosure requirements.

15.54(1) An insurer issuing a small face amount policy shall provide the disclosure included in Appendix IV if at any point in time over the term of the policy the cumulative premiums paid may exceed the face amount of the policy at that point in time. The required disclosure shall be provided to the policy owner or certificate holder no later than at the time the policy or certificate is delivered. The disclosure shall not be attached to the policy, but may be delivered with the policy.

15.54(2) If, for a particular policy form, the cumulative premiums may exceed the face amount for some demographic or benefit combination but not for all combinations, the insurer may choose to either:

- a. Provide the disclosure only in those circumstances when the premiums may exceed the face amount; or
- b. Provide the disclosure for all demographic and benefit combinations.

15.54(3) Cumulative premiums shall include premiums paid for riders. However, the face amount shall not include the benefit attributable to the riders.

191—15.55(507B) Insurer duties. The insurer and its producers shall have a duty to provide information to policyholders or certificate holders that ask questions about the disclosure statement.

191—15.56 to 15.60 Reserved.

DIVISION IV
ANNUITY DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

191—15.61(507B) Purpose. The purpose of these rules is to provide standards for the disclosure of certain minimum information about annuity contracts to protect consumers and to foster consumer education. The rules specify the minimum information which must be disclosed and the method for disclosing it in connection with the sale of annuity contracts. The goal of these rules is to ensure that purchasers of annuity contracts understand certain basic features of annuity contracts. The rules in this division apply to all annuities not exempted under rule 15.62(507B) that are issued on or after July 1, 2004.

191—15.62(507B) Applicability and scope. These rules apply to all group and individual annuity contracts and certificates except:

15.62(1) Registered or nonregistered variable annuities or other registered products;

15.62(2) Immediate and deferred annuities that contain no nonguaranteed elements;

15.62(3) Annuities used to fund:

a. An employee pension plan which is covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA);

b. A plan described by Section 401(a), 401(k) or 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, where the plan, for purposes of ERISA, is established or maintained by an employer;

c. A governmental or church plan defined in Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code or a deferred compensation plan of a state or local government or a tax exempt organization under Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code; or

d. A nonqualified deferred compensation arrangement established or maintained by an employer or plan sponsor.

This subrule shall apply to annuities used to fund a plan or arrangement that is funded solely by contributions an employee elects to make whether on a pretax or after-tax basis, and where the insurance company has been notified that plan participants may choose from among two or more fixed annuity providers and there is a direct solicitation of an individual employee by a producer for the purchase of an annuity contract. As used in this subrule, direct solicitation shall not include any meeting held by a producer solely for the purpose of educating or enrolling employees in the plan or arrangement;

15.62(4) Structured settlement annuities; and

15.62(5) Charitable gift annuities as defined in Iowa Code chapter 508F.

191—15.63(507B) Definitions. For purposes of these rules:

“*Contract owner*” means the owner named in the annuity contract or the certificate holder in the case of a group annuity contract.

“*Determinable elements*” means elements that are derived from processes or methods that are guaranteed at issue and not subject to company discretion, but where the values or amounts cannot be determined until some point after the contract is issued. These elements include the premiums, credited interest rates (including any bonus), benefits, values, non-interest-based credits, charges, or elements of formulas used to determine any of these elements. These elements may be described as guaranteed but not determined at issue. An element is considered determinable if it was calculated from underlying determinable elements only, or from both determinable and guaranteed elements.

“*Generic name*” means a short title descriptive of the annuity contract for which application is made or an illustration is prepared, such as “single premium deferred annuity.”

“*Guaranteed elements*” means the premiums, credited interest rates (including any bonus), benefits, values, non-interest-based credits, charges, or elements of formulas used to determine any of these elements, that are guaranteed and determined at issue. An element is considered guaranteed if all of the underlying elements that go into its calculation are guaranteed.

“*Nonguaranteed elements*” means the premiums, credited interest rates (including any bonus), benefits, values, non-interest-based credits, charges or elements of formulas used to determine any of these elements, that are subject to company discretion and are not guaranteed at issue. An element is considered nonguaranteed if any of the underlying nonguaranteed elements are used in its calculation.

“*Structured settlement annuity*” means a “qualified funding asset” as defined in Section 130(d) of the Internal Revenue Code or an annuity that would be a qualified funding asset under Section 130(d) but for the fact that it is not owned by an assignee under a qualified assignment.

191—15.64(507B) Standards for delivery of disclosure document and Buyer’s Guide.

15.64(1) Delivery requirement. When an insurer or an insurance producer receives an application for an annuity contract, the insurer or insurance producer shall provide the applicant the disclosure document described in rule 191—15.65(507B) and the Buyer’s Guide to Fixed Deferred Annuities, hereafter “the Buyer’s Guide,” in the current form prescribed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners or in language approved by the commissioner of insurance.

15.64(2) Delivery methods. The documents required under this rule may be delivered as follows:

a. When an application for an annuity contract is taken in a face-to-face meeting with an insurance producer, the insurance producer shall provide the disclosure document and the Buyer’s Guide at or before the time of application.

b. When an application for an annuity contract is taken by means other than a face-to-face meeting, the insurer shall send the applicant both the disclosure document and the Buyer’s Guide no later than five business days after the completed application is received by the insurer.

c. When an application is received as a result of direct solicitation through the mail, the insurer may provide the Buyer’s Guide and the disclosure document in the mailing which invites prospective applicants to apply for an annuity contract.

d. When an application is received via the Internet, the insurer may comply with this rule by taking reasonable steps to make the Buyer’s Guide and disclosure document available for viewing and printing on the insurer’s Web site.

15.64(3) A solicitation for an annuity contract which occurs other than in a face-to-face meeting shall include a statement that the proposed applicant may contact the Iowa insurance division for a free annuity Buyer’s Guide. In lieu of the foregoing statement, an insurer may include a statement that the prospective applicant may contact the insurer for a free annuity Buyer’s Guide.

15.64(4) When the Buyer’s Guide and disclosure document are not provided at or before the time of application, a free-look period of no less than 15 days shall be provided for the applicant to return the annuity contract without penalty. This free look shall run concurrently with any other free look provided under the state law or rule.

191—15.65(507B) Content of disclosure documents. Insurers shall define terms used in the disclosure statement in language that facilitates understanding by a typical individual within the segment of the public to which the disclosure statement is directed. At a minimum, the following information shall be included in the disclosure document:

15.65(1) The generic name of the contract, the company product name, if different, and form number and the fact that it is an annuity;

15.65(2) The insurer’s name and address;

15.65(3) A description of the contract and its benefits, emphasizing its long-term nature, including examples where appropriate, including but not limited to:

- a. The guaranteed, nonguaranteed and determinable elements of the contract, and the limitations of those elements, if any, and an explanation of how the elements and limitations operate;
- b. An explanation of the initial crediting rate, specifying any bonus or introductory portion, the duration of the rate and the fact that rates may change from time to time and are not guaranteed;
- c. Periodic income options both on a guaranteed and nonguaranteed basis;
- d. Any value reductions caused by withdrawals from or surrender of the contract;
- e. How values in the contract can be accessed;
- f. The death benefit, if available, and how it will be calculated;
- g. A summary of the federal tax status of the contract and any penalties applicable on withdrawal of values from the contract; and
- h. Impact of any rider, such as a long-term care rider;

15.65(4) Specific dollar amount or percentage charges and fees, listed with an explanation of how they apply; and

15.65(5) Information about the current guaranteed rate for new contracts that contains a clear notice that the rate is subject to change.

191—15.66(507B) Report to contract owners. For annuities in the payout period with changes in nonguaranteed elements and for the accumulation period of a deferred annuity, the insurer shall provide each contract owner with a report, at least annually, on the status of the contract that contains at least the following information:

1. The beginning and ending date of the current report period;
2. The accumulation and cash surrender value, if any, at the end of the previous report period and at the end of the current report period;
3. The total amounts, if any, that have been credited, charged to the contract value or paid during the current report period; and
4. The amount of outstanding loans, if any, as of the end of the current report period.

191—15.67(507B) Severability. If any provision of these rules or their application to any person or circumstance is for any reason held to be invalid by any court of law, the remainder of the rule and its application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

Appendix I
LIFE INSURANCE COST AND
BENEFIT DISCLOSURE

Definitions.

“Annual premium” for a basic policy or rider, for which the company reserves the right to change the premium, shall be the maximum annual premium.

“Cash dividend” means dividends which can be applied toward payment of gross premiums which comply with the illustrated scale.

“Equivalent level annual dividend” is calculated by applying the following steps:

1. Accumulate the annual cash dividends at 5 percent interest compounded annually to the end of the tenth and twentieth policy years.

2. Divide each accumulation of paragraph “1” by an interest factor that converts it into one equivalent level annual amount that, if paid at the beginning of each year, would accrue to the values in paragraph “1” over the respective periods stipulated in paragraph “1.” If the period is 10 years, the factor is 13.207 and if the period is 20 years, the factor is 34.719.

3. Divide the results of paragraph “2” by the number of thousands of the equivalent level death benefit to arrive at the equivalent level annual dividend.

“Equivalent level death benefit” of a policy or term life insurance rider is an amount calculated as follows:

1. Accumulate the guaranteed amount payable upon death, regardless of the cause of death other than suicide, or other specifically enumerated exclusions, at the beginning of each policy year for 10 and 20 years at 5 percent interest compounded annually to the end of the tenth and twentieth policy years respectively.

2. Divide each accumulation of paragraph “1” by an interest factor that converts it into one equivalent level annual amount that, if paid at the beginning of each year, would accrue to the value in paragraph “1” over the respective periods stipulated in paragraph “1.” If the period is 10 years, the factor is 13.207 and if the period is 20 years, the factor is 34.719.

“Generic name” means a short title which is descriptive of the premium and benefit patterns of a policy or a rider.

“Life insurance net payment cost index.” The life insurance net payment cost index is calculated in the same manner as the comparable life insurance cost index except that the cash surrender value and any terminal dividend are set at zero.

“Life insurance surrender cost index.” The life insurance surrender cost index is calculated by applying the following steps:

1. Determine the guaranteed cash surrender value, if any, available at the end of the tenth and twentieth policy years.

2. For participating policies, add the terminal dividend payable upon surrender, if any, to the accumulation of the annual cash dividends at 5 percent interest compounded annually to the end of the period selected and add this sum to the amount determined in subparagraph “1.”

3. Divide the result of subparagraph “2” (subparagraph “1” for guaranteed-cost policies) by an interest factor that converts it into an equivalent level annual amount that, if paid at the beginning of each year, would accrue to the value in subparagraph “2” (subparagraph “1” for guaranteed-cost policies) over the respective periods stipulated in subparagraph “1.” If the period is 10 years, the factor is 13.207 and if the period is 20 years, the factor is 34.719.

4. Determine the equivalent level premium by accumulating each annual premium payable for the basic policy or rider at 5 percent interest compounded annually to the end of the period stipulated in subparagraph “1” and dividing the result by the respective factors stated in subparagraph “3” (this amount is the annual premium payable for a level premium plan).

5. Subtract the result of subparagraph “3” from subparagraph “4.”

6. Divide the result of subparagraph "5" by the number of thousands of the equivalent level death benefit to arrive at the life insurance surrender cost index.

"Policy summary," for the purposes of these rules, shall mean a written statement describing the elements of the policy including but not limited to:

1. A prominently placed title as follows: STATEMENT OF POLICY COST AND BENEFIT INFORMATION.

2. The name and address of the insurance producer or, if no producer is involved, a statement of the procedure to be followed in order to receive responses to inquiries regarding the policy summary.

3. The full name and home office or administrative office address of the company in which the life insurance policy is to be or has been written.

4. The generic name of the basic policy and each rider.

5. The following amounts, where applicable, for the first five policy years and representative policy years thereafter sufficient to clearly illustrate the premium and benefit patterns including, but not necessarily limited to, the years for which life insurance cost indexes are displayed and at least one year from 60 through 65 or maturity, whichever is earlier:

(a) The annual premium for the basic policy.

(b) The annual premium for each optional rider.

(c) Guaranteed amount payable upon death, at the beginning of the policy year regardless of the cause of death other than suicide and other specifically enumerated exclusions, which is provided by the basic policy and each optional rider, with benefits provided under the basic policy and each rider shown separately.

(d) Total guaranteed cash surrender values at the end of the year with values shown separately for the basic policy and each rider.

(e) Cash dividends payable at the end of the year with values shown separately for the basic policy and each rider. (Dividends need not be displayed beyond the twentieth policy year.)

(f) Guaranteed endowment amounts payable under the policy which are not included under guaranteed cash surrender values above.

6. The effective policy loan annual percentage interest rate, if the policy contains this provision, specifying whether this rate is applied in advance or in arrears. If the policy loan interest rate is variable, the policy summary includes the maximum annual percentage rate.

7. Life insurance cost indexes for 10 and 20 years but in no case beyond the premium paying period. Separate indexes are displayed for the basic policy and for each optional term life insurance rider. Such indexes need not be included for optional riders which are limited to benefits such as accidental death benefits, disability waiver of premium, preliminary term life insurance coverage of less than 12 months and guaranteed insurability benefits nor for basic policies or optional riders covering more than one life.

8. The equivalent level annual dividend, in the case of participating policies and participating optional term life insurance riders, under the same circumstances and for the same durations at which life insurance cost indexes are displayed.

9. A policy summary which includes dividends shall also include a statement that dividends are based on the company's illustrated scale and are not guaranteed and a statement in close proximity to the equivalent level annual dividend as follows: An explanation of the intended use of the equivalent level annual dividend is included in the life insurance buyer's guide.

10. A statement in close proximity to the life insurance cost indexes as follows: An explanation of the intended use of these indexes is provided in the life insurance buyer's guide.

11. The date on which the policy summary is prepared.

The policy summary must consist of a separate document. All information required to be disclosed must be set out in such a manner as not to minimize or render any portion thereof obscure. Any amounts which remain level for two or more years of the policy may be represented by a single number if it is clearly indicated what amounts are applicable for each policy year. Amounts in paragraph "5" of this definition shall be listed in total, not a per-thousand nor a per-unit basis. If more than one insured is covered under one policy or rider, guaranteed death benefits shall be displayed separately for each insured or for each class of insured if death benefits do not differ within the class. Zero amounts shall be displayed as zero and shall not be displayed as a blank space.

Appendix II
HIV ANTIBODY TEST
INFORMATION FORM FOR INSURANCE APPLICANT

AIDS

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a life-threatening disorder of the immune system, caused by a virus, HIV. The virus is transmitted by sexual contact with an infected person, from an infected mother to her newborn infant, or by exposure to infected blood (as in needle sharing during IV drug use). Persons at high risk of contracting AIDS include males who have had sexual contact with another man, intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, and persons who have had sexual contact with any of these persons. AIDS does not typically develop until a person has been infected with HIV for several years. A person may remain free of symptoms for years after becoming infected. Infected persons have a 25 percent to 50 percent chance of developing AIDS over the next ten years.

The HIV antibody test:

Before consenting to testing, please read the following important information:

1. Purpose. This test is being run to determine whether you may have been infected with HIV. If you are infected, you are probably not insurable. This test is not a test for AIDS; AIDS can only be diagnosed by medical evaluation.

2. Positive test results. If you test positive, you should seek medical follow-up with your personal physician. If your test is positive, you may be infected with HIV.

3. Accuracy. An HIV test will be considered positive only after confirmation by a laboratory procedure that the state health officer has determined to be highly accurate. Nonetheless, the HIV antibody test is not 100 percent accurate. Possible errors include:

a. False positives: This test gives a positive result, even though you are not infected. This happens rarely and is more common in persons who have not engaged in high-risk behavior. Retesting should be done to help confirm the validity of a positive test.

b. False negatives: The test gives a negative result, even though you are infected with HIV. This happens most commonly in recently infected persons; it takes at least 4 to 12 weeks for a positive test result to develop after a person is infected.

4. Side effects. A positive test result may cause you significant anxiety. A positive test may result in uninsurability for life, health, or disability insurance policies for which you may apply in the future. Although prohibited by law, discrimination in housing, employment, or public accommodations may result if your test results become known to others. A negative result may create a false sense of security.

5. Disclosure of results. A positive test result will be disclosed to you. You may choose to have information about your HIV test results communicated to you through your physician or through the alternative testing site.

6. Confidentiality. Like all medical information, HIV test results are confidential. An insurer, insurance agent, or insurance-support organization is required to maintain the confidentiality of HIV test results. However, certain disclosures of your test results may occur, including those authorized by consent forms that you may have signed as part of your overall application. Your test results may be provided to the Medical Information Bureau, a national insurance data bank. Your insurance agent will provide you with additional written information about this subject at your request.

Appendix III
COMPLAINT RECORD

Column A	Column B		Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H
Company Identification Number	Function Code	Reason Code	Line Type	Company Disposition after Complaint Received	Date Received	Date Closed	Insurance Division Complaint	State of Origin

(Producer's
Number)

Explanation

- A. Company Identification Number. As noted, this refers to the identification number of the complaint and shall also include the license number, name, or other means of identifying any licensee of the Insurance Division, such as a producer that may have been involved in the complaint.
- B. Function Code. Complaints are to be classified by function(s) of the company involved. Separate classifications are to be maintained for underwriting, marketing and sales, claims, policyholder service and miscellaneous.
- Reason Code. Complaints are also to be classified by the nature of the complaint. The following is the classification required for each function specified above.
- 1) Underwriting
 - a) Premium and rating
 - b) Refusal to insure
 - c) Cancellation/renewal
 - d) Delays
 - e) Unfair discrimination
 - f) Endorsement/rider
 - g) Group conversion
 - h) Medicare supplement violation
 - i) Miscellaneous (not covered by above)
 - 2) Marketing and Sales
 - a) General advertising
 - b) Misrepresentation
 - c) Producer handling
 - d) Replacement
 - e) Delays
 - f) Miscellaneous (not covered by above)
 - 3) Claims
 - a) Post claim underwriting
 - b) Delays
 - c) Unsatisfactory settlement/offer
 - d) Coordination of benefits
 - e) Cost containment
 - f) Denial of claim
 - g) Miscellaneous (not covered by above)
 - 4) Policyholder service
 - a) Premium notice/billing
 - b) Cash value

- c) Delays/no response
 - d) Premium refund
 - e) Coverage question
 - f) Miscellaneous (not covered by above)
 - 5) Miscellaneous
- C. Line Type. Complaints are to be classified according to the line of insurance involved as follows:
- 1) Automobile
 - 2) Fire
 - 3) Homeowners-Farmowners
 - 4) Crop
 - 5) Life and Annuity
 - 6) Accident and Health
 - 7) Miscellaneous (not covered by above)
- D. Company Disposition After Receipt. The complaint record shall note the disposition of the complaint.
- The following examples illustrate the type of information called for, but are not intended to be required language nor to exhaust the possibilities:
- 1. Policy issued/restored.
 - 2. Refund.
 - 3. Claim settled.
 - 4. Delay resolved.
 - 5. Question of fact.
 - 6. Contract provision/legal issue.
 - 7. No jurisdiction.
- E. Date Received. This refers to the date the complaint was received.
- F. Date Closed. This refers to the date on which the complaint was disposed of whether by one action or a series of actions as may be present in connection with some complaints.
- G. Insurance Department Complaint. Complaints are to be classified so as to indicate if the complaint was from an insurance department.
- H. State of Origin. The complaint record should note the state from which the complaint originated. Ordinarily this will be the state of residence of the complainant.

Appendix IV
DISCLOSURE FORM FOR SMALL FACE AMOUNT LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Important Information About Your Policy

The premiums you'll pay for your policy may be more than the amount of your coverage (the face amount). You can find both the face amount and the annual premium in your policy. Look for the page labeled [use the label the company uses for that information, such as "Statement of Policy Cost and Benefit Information"].

- Usually, you can figure out how many years it will take until the premiums paid will be greater than the face amount. For an estimate, divide the face amount by the annual premium. Several factors may affect how many years this might take for *your* policy. These include not paying premiums when due, taking out a policy loan, surrendering your policy for cash, policy riders, payment of dividends, if applicable, and changes in the face amount.
- Many factors will affect how much your life insurance costs. Some are your age and health, the face amount of the policy, and the cost of a policy rider. You may be able to pay less for your insurance if you answer health questions. You may also pay less if you pay your premiums less often.
- Ask your insurance agent or your insurance company if you have any questions about your premiums, your coverage, or anything else about your policy.

If You Change Your Mind . . .

- You can get a full refund of premiums you've paid if you return your policy and cancel your coverage. You *must* do this within the number of days stated on your policy's front page. To return the policy for a full refund, send it back to the agent or the company.
- If you stop paying premiums or cancel your policy *after* the time that a full refund is available, you have specific rights. Ask your insurance agent or your insurance company about your rights.

Contact Information

If you have questions about your insurance policy, ask your agent or your company. If your agent isn't available, contact your insurance company at [provide telephone number (including toll-free number if available), address and Web site (if available)].

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 507B.

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*At its meeting held August 13, 2003, the Administrative Rules Review Committee voted to delay the effective date of 15.43(10) until adjournment of the 2004 Session of the General Assembly.