

508.37 Standard nonforfeitures — life insurance.

This section shall be known as the “*Standard Nonforfeiture Law for Life Insurance*”.

1. In the case of policies issued on or after the operative date of this section as defined in subsection 11, a policy of life insurance shall not, except as stated in subsection 10, be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless it contains in substance the following provisions, or corresponding provisions which in the opinion of the commissioner are at least as favorable to the defaulting or surrendering policyholder as the following provisions and are essentially in compliance with subsection 9:

a. That, in the event of default in any premium payment, the company will grant, upon proper request not later than sixty days after the due date of the premium in default, a paid-up nonforfeiture benefit on a plan stipulated in the policy, effective as of the due date of the premium in default, and of an amount as specified in this section. In lieu of the stipulated paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, the company may substitute, upon proper request not later than sixty days after the due date of the premium in default, an actuarially equivalent alternative paid-up nonforfeiture benefit which provides a greater amount or longer period of death benefits or, if applicable, a greater amount or earlier payment of endowment benefits.

b. That, upon surrender of the policy within sixty days after the due date of any premium payment in default after premiums have been paid for at least three full years in the case of ordinary insurance or five full years in the case of industrial insurance, the company will pay, in lieu of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, a cash surrender value of an amount as may be specified in this section.

c. That a specified paid-up nonforfeiture benefit shall become effective as specified in the policy unless the person entitled to make an election elects another available option not later than sixty days after the due date of the premium in default.

d. That, if the policy has become paid up by completion of all premium payments or if it is continued under any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit which became effective on or after the third policy anniversary in the case of ordinary insurance or the fifth policy anniversary in the case of industrial insurance, the company will pay, upon surrender of the policy within thirty days after any policy anniversary, a cash surrender value of an amount as specified in this section.

e. In the case of policies which cause on a basis guaranteed in the policy unscheduled changes in benefits or premiums, or which provide an option for changes in benefits or premiums other than a change to a new policy, a statement of the mortality table, interest rate, and method used in calculating cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits available under the policy. In the case of all other policies, a statement of the mortality table and interest rate used in calculating the cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits available under the policy, together with a table showing the cash surrender value, if any, and paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, if any, available under the policy on each policy anniversary, either during the first twenty policy years or during the term of the policy, whichever is shorter, the values and benefits to be calculated upon the assumption that there are no dividends or paid-up additions credited to the policy and that there is no indebtedness to the company on the policy.

f. A statement that the cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits available under the policy are not less than the minimum values and benefits required by or pursuant to the insurance law of the state in which the policy is delivered; an explanation of the manner in which the cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits are altered by the existence of any paid-up additions credited to the policy or any indebtedness to the company on the policy; if a detailed statement of the method of computation of the values and benefits shown in the policy is not stated in the policy, a statement that the method of computation has been filed with the insurance supervisory official of the state in which the policy is delivered; and a statement of the method to be used in calculating the cash surrender value and paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under the policy on any policy anniversary beyond the last anniversary for which such values and benefits are consecutively shown in the policy.

2. Any of the provisions or portions of provisions set forth in subsection 1 which are not applicable by reason of the plan of insurance may, to the extent inapplicable, be omitted from

the policy. The company shall reserve the right to defer the payment of any cash surrender value for a period of six months after demand with surrender of the policy.

3. a. Any cash surrender value available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due on any policy anniversary, whether or not required by subsection 1, shall be an amount not less than the excess, if any, of the present value, on that anniversary, of the future guaranteed benefits which would have been provided for by the policy, including any existing paid-up additions, if there had been no default, over the sum of the then present value of the adjusted premiums as defined in subsections 5 and 6, corresponding to premiums which would have fallen due on and after that anniversary, plus the amount of any indebtedness to the company on the policy.

b. However, for a policy issued on or after the operative date of subsection 6 as defined in paragraph “k” of that subsection, which provides supplemental life insurance or annuity benefits at the option of the insured and for an identifiable additional premium by rider or supplemental policy provision, the cash surrender value referred to in paragraph “a” shall be an amount not less than the sum of the cash surrender value as defined in that paragraph for an otherwise similar policy issued at the same age without such rider or supplemental policy provision and the cash surrender value as defined in that paragraph for a policy which provides only the benefits otherwise provided by such rider or supplemental policy provision.

c. Provided further that for a family policy issued on or after the operative date of subsection 6 as defined in paragraph “k” of that subsection, which defines a primary insured and provides term insurance on the life of the spouse of the primary insured expiring before the spouse’s age seventy-one, the cash surrender value referred to in paragraph “a” shall be an amount not less than the sum of the cash surrender value as defined in paragraph “a” for an otherwise similar policy issued at the same age without term insurance on the life of the spouse and the cash surrender value as defined in paragraph “a” for a policy which provides only the benefits otherwise provided by the term insurance on the life of the spouse.

d. Any cash surrender value available within thirty days after any policy anniversary under any policy paid up by completion of all premium payments or any policy continued under any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, whether or not required by subsection 1, shall be an amount not less than the present value, on the anniversary, of the future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy, including any existing paid-up additions, decreased by any indebtedness to the company on the policy.

4. Any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due on any policy anniversary shall be such that its present value as of that anniversary shall be at least equal to the cash surrender value then provided for by the policy or, if none is provided for, that cash surrender value which would have been required by this section in the absence of the condition that premiums shall have been paid for at least a specified period.

5. a. (1) This subsection does not apply to policies issued on or after the operative date of subsection 6 as defined in paragraph “k” of that subsection. Except as provided in paragraph “c”, the adjusted premiums for any policy shall be calculated on an annual basis and shall be such uniform percentage of the respective premiums specified in the policy for each policy year, excluding any extra premiums charged because of impairments or special hazards, that the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of all such adjusted premiums is equal to the sum of the following:

(a) The then present value of the future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy.

(b) Two percent of the amount of the insurance, if the insurance is uniform in amount, or of the equivalent uniform amount, as defined in paragraph “b”, if the amount of insurance varies with duration of the policy.

(c) Forty percent of the adjusted premium for the first policy year.

(d) Twenty-five percent of either the adjusted premium for the first policy year or the adjusted premium for a whole life policy of the same uniform or equivalent uniform amount with uniform premiums for the whole of life issued at the same age for the same amount of insurance, whichever is less.

(2) However, in applying the percentages specified in subparagraph (1), subparagraph divisions (c) and (d), no adjusted premium shall be deemed to exceed four percent of the

amount of insurance or an equivalent uniform amount. The date of issue of a policy for the purpose of this subsection is the date as of which the rated age of the insured is determined.

b. In the case of a policy providing an amount of insurance varying with duration of the policy, the equivalent uniform amount for the purpose of this subsection shall be deemed to be the uniform amount of insurance provided by an otherwise similar policy, containing the same endowment benefit or benefits, if any, issued at the same age and for the same term, the amount of which does not vary with duration and the benefits under which have the same present value at the date of issue as the benefits under the policy, provided that in the case of a policy providing a varying amount of insurance issued on the life of a child under age ten, the equivalent uniform amount may be computed as though the amount of insurance provided by the policy prior to the attainment of age ten were the amount provided by the policy at age ten.

c. The adjusted premiums for a policy providing term insurance benefits by rider or supplemental policy provision shall be equal to (1) the adjusted premiums for an otherwise similar policy issued at the same age without such term insurance benefits, increased during the period for which premiums for such term insurance benefits are payable, by (2) the adjusted premiums for such term insurance, the foregoing items (1) and (2) being calculated separately and as specified in paragraphs "a" and "b" of this subsection except that, for the purposes of paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), subparagraph divisions (b), (c), and (d), the amount of insurance or equivalent uniform amount of insurance used in the calculation of the adjusted premiums referred to in item (2) in this paragraph shall be equal to the excess of the corresponding amount determined for the entire policy over the amount used in the calculation of the adjusted premiums in item (1) in this paragraph.

d. (1) All adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this section shall for policies of ordinary insurance be calculated on the basis of the Commissioners 1958 Standard Ordinary Mortality Table, provided that for any category of ordinary insurance issued on female risks, adjusted premiums and present values may be calculated according to an age not more than six years younger than the actual age of the insured. The calculations for all policies of industrial insurance issued before January 1, 1968, shall be made on the basis of the 1941 Standard Industrial Mortality Table, except that a company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election that the adjusted premiums and present values shall be calculated on the basis of the Commissioners 1961 Standard Industrial Mortality Table, after a specified date before January 1, 1968. Whether or not any election has been made, the Commissioners 1961 Standard Industrial Mortality Table shall be the basis for these calculations as to all policies of industrial insurance issued on or after January 1, 1968. All calculations shall be made on the basis of the rate of interest specified in the policy for calculating cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits, provided that the rate of interest shall not exceed three and one-half percent per annum, except that a rate of interest not exceeding four percent per annum may be used for policies issued on or after July 1, 1974, and prior to January 1, 1980, and a rate of interest not exceeding five and one-half percent per annum may be used for policies issued on or after January 1, 1980.

(2) However, in calculating the present value under subparagraph (1) of any paid-up term insurance with accompanying pure endowment, if any, offered as a nonforfeiture benefit, the rates of mortality assumed in the case of policies of ordinary insurance, may be not more than those shown in the Commissioners 1958 Extended Term Insurance Table, and in the case of policies of industrial insurance, may be not more than one hundred thirty percent of the rates of mortality according to the 1941 Standard Industrial Mortality Table, except that when the Commissioners 1961 Standard Industrial Mortality Table becomes applicable as specified in this paragraph, the rates of mortality assumed may be not more than those shown in the Commissioners 1961 Industrial Extended Term Insurance Table. In addition, for insurance issued on a substandard basis, the calculation under subparagraph (1) of adjusted premiums and present values may be based on any other table of mortality that is specified by the company and approved by the commissioner.

6. a. (1) This subsection applies to all policies issued on or after the operative date of this subsection, as defined in paragraph "k". Except as provided in paragraph "g", the adjusted premiums for a policy shall be calculated on an annual basis and shall be such uniform percentage of the respective premiums specified in the policy for each policy year,

excluding amounts payable as extra premiums to cover impairments or special hazards and also excluding any uniform annual contract charge or policy fee specified in the policy in a statement of the method to be used in calculating the cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits, that the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of all adjusted premiums is equal to the sum of the following:

(a) The then present value of the future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy.

(b) One percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance is uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years.

(c) One hundred twenty-five percent of the nonforfeiture net level premium, as defined in paragraph "b". However, in applying this percentage a nonforfeiture net level premium shall not be deemed to exceed four percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance is uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years.

(2) The date of issue of a policy for the purpose of this subsection is the date as of which the rated age of the insured is determined.

b. The nonforfeiture net level premium shall be equal to the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of the guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy divided by the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of an annuity of one per annum payable on the date of issue of the policy and on each anniversary of the policy on which a premium falls due.

c. In the case of policies which on a basis guaranteed in the policy cause unscheduled changes in benefits or premiums, or which provide an option for changes in benefits or premiums other than a change to a new policy, the adjusted premiums and present values shall initially be calculated on the assumption that future benefits and premiums do not change from those stipulated at the date of issue of the policy. At the time of a change in the benefits or premiums, the future adjusted premiums, nonforfeiture net level premiums, and present values shall be recalculated on the assumption that future benefits and premiums do not change from those stipulated by the policy immediately after the change.

d. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph "g", the recalculated future adjusted premiums for a policy shall be such uniform percentage of the respective future premiums specified in the policy for each policy year, excluding amounts payable as extra premiums to cover impairments and special hazards, and also excluding any uniform annual contract charge or policy fee specified in the policy in a statement of the method to be used in calculating the cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits, that the present value, at the time of change to the newly defined benefits or premiums, of all future adjusted premiums is equal to the excess of the sum of the then present value of the then future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy plus the additional expense allowance, if any, over the then cash surrender value, if any, or present value of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit under the policy.

e. The additional expense allowance, at the time of the change to the newly defined benefits or premiums, shall be the sum of one percent of the excess, if positive, of the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years subsequent to the change over the average amount of insurance prior to the change at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years subsequent to the time of the most recent previous change, or, if there has been no previous change, the date of issue of the policy, plus one hundred twenty-five percent of the increase, if positive, in the nonforfeiture net level premium.

f. The recalculated nonforfeiture net level premium shall be equal to the result obtained by dividing (1) by (2), where (1) and (2) are as follows:

(1) The sum of the nonforfeiture net level premium applicable prior to the change times the present value of an annuity of one per annum payable on each anniversary of the policy on or subsequent to the date of the change on which a premium would have fallen due had the change not occurred, plus the present value of the increase in future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy.

(2) The present value of an annuity of one per annum payable on each anniversary of the policy on or subsequent to the date of change on which a premium falls due.

g. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this subsection, in the case of a policy issued on a substandard basis which provides reduced graded amounts of insurance so that, in each

policy year, the policy has the same tabular mortality cost as an otherwise similar policy issued on the standard basis which provides higher uniform amounts of insurance, adjusted premiums and present values for the substandard policy may be calculated as if it were issued to provide those higher uniform amounts of insurance on the standard basis.

h. Adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this section shall for all policies of ordinary insurance be calculated on the basis of either the Commissioners 1980 Standard Ordinary Mortality Table or, at the election of the company for any one or more specified plans of life insurance, the Commissioners 1980 Standard Ordinary Mortality Table with Ten-Year Select Mortality Factors; shall for all policies of industrial insurance be calculated on the basis of the Commissioners 1961 Standard Industrial Mortality Table; and shall for all policies issued in a particular calendar year be calculated on the basis of a rate of interest not exceeding the nonforfeiture interest rate as defined in paragraph “*i*” for policies issued in that calendar year. However:

(1) At the option of the company, calculations for all policies issued in a particular calendar year may be made on the basis of a rate of interest not exceeding the nonforfeiture interest rate, as defined in paragraph “*i*”, for policies issued in the immediately preceding calendar year.

(2) Under any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, including any paid-up dividend additions, any cash surrender value available, whether or not required by subsection 1, shall be calculated on the basis of the mortality table and rate of interest used in determining the amount of the paid-up nonforfeiture benefit and paid-up dividend additions, if any.

(3) A company may calculate the amount of any guaranteed paid-up nonforfeiture benefit including any paid-up additions under the policy on the basis of an interest rate no lower than that specified in the policy for calculating cash surrender values.

(4) In calculating the present value of any paid-up term insurance with accompanying pure endowment, if any, offered as a nonforfeiture benefit, the rates of mortality assumed may be not more than those shown in the Commissioners 1980 Extended Term Insurance Table for policies of ordinary insurance and not more than the Commissioners 1961 Industrial Extended Term Insurance Table for policies of industrial insurance.

(5) For insurance issued on a substandard basis, the calculation of adjusted premiums and present values may be based on appropriate modifications of the tables referred to in this paragraph.

(6) Any ordinary mortality tables adopted after 1980 by the national association of insurance commissioners and approved by rule adopted by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum nonforfeiture standard may be substituted for the Commissioners 1980 Standard Ordinary Mortality Table with or without Ten-Year Select Mortality Factors or for the Commissioners 1980 Extended Term Insurance Table.

(7) Any industrial mortality tables adopted after 1980 by the national association of insurance commissioners and approved by rule adopted by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum nonforfeiture standard may be substituted for the Commissioners 1961 Standard Industrial Mortality Table or the Commissioners 1961 Industrial Extended Term Insurance Table.

i. The nonforfeiture interest rate per annum for any policy issued in a particular calendar year shall be equal to one hundred twenty-five percent of the calendar year statutory valuation interest rate for the policy as defined in section 508.36, rounded to the nearest one quarter of one percent.

j. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the insurance laws of this state, any refiling of nonforfeiture values or their methods of computation for any previously approved policy form which involves only a change in the interest rate or mortality table used to compute nonforfeiture values shall not require refiling of any other provisions of that policy form.

k. After the effective date of this subsection, a company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with this subsection after a specified date before January 1, 1989, which shall be the operative date of this subsection for that company. If a company makes no election, the operative date of this subsection for the company is January 1, 1989.

7. In the case of any plan of life insurance which provides for future premium

determination, the amounts of which are to be determined by the insurance company based on then estimates of future experience, or in the case of any plan of life insurance which is of such a nature that minimum values cannot be determined by the methods described in subsection 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, then all of the following conditions must be met:

a. The commissioner must be satisfied that the benefits provided under the plan are substantially as favorable to policyholders and insureds as the minimum benefits otherwise required by subsection 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

b. The commissioner must be satisfied that the benefits and the pattern of premiums of that plan are not misleading to prospective policyholders or insureds.

c. The cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits provided by the plan must not be less than the minimum values and benefits required for the plan computed by a method consistent with the principles of this section, as determined by rules adopted by the commissioner.

8. Any cash surrender value and any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due at any time other than on the policy anniversary, shall be calculated with allowance for the lapse of time and the payment of fractional premiums beyond the last preceding policy anniversary. All values referred to in subsections 3, 4, 5, and 6 may be calculated upon the assumption that any death benefit is payable at the end of the policy year of death. The net value of any paid-up additions, other than paid-up term additions, shall be not less than the amounts used to provide the additions. Notwithstanding subsection 3, additional benefits payable in the event of death or dismemberment by accident or accidental means, or in the event of total and permanent disability, or as reversionary annuity or deferred reversionary annuity benefits, or as term insurance benefits provided by a rider or supplemental policy provision to which, if issued as a separate policy, this section would not apply, or as term insurance on the life of a child or on the lives of children provided in a policy on the life of a parent of the child, if the term insurance expires before the child's age is twenty-six, is uniform in amount after the child's age is one, and has not become paid up by reason of the death of a parent of the child, or as other policy benefits additional to life insurance and endowment benefits, and the premiums for all of these additional benefits, shall be disregarded in ascertaining cash surrender values and nonforfeiture benefits required by this section, and none of these additional benefits shall be required to be included in any paid-up nonforfeiture benefits.

9. a. This subsection, in addition to all other applicable subsections of this section, applies to all policies issued on or after January 1, 1985. Any cash surrender value available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due on any policy anniversary shall be in an amount which does not differ by more than two-tenths of one percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance is uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years, from the sum of the greater of zero and the basic cash value specified in paragraph "b" plus the present value of any existing paid-up additions less the amount of any indebtedness to the company under the policy.

b. The basic cash value shall be equal to the present value, on the anniversary, of the future guaranteed benefits which would have been provided for by the policy, excluding any existing paid-up additions and before deduction of any indebtedness to the company, if there had been no default, less the then present value of the nonforfeiture factors, as defined in paragraph "c", corresponding to premiums which would have fallen due on and after the anniversary. However, the effects on the basic cash value of supplemental life insurance or annuity benefits or of family coverage, as described in subsection 3 or 5, whichever is applicable, shall be the same as the effects specified in subsection 3 or 5, whichever is applicable, on the cash surrender values defined in that subsection.

c. (1) The nonforfeiture factor for each policy year shall be an amount equal to a percentage of the adjusted premium for the policy year, as defined in subsection 5 or 6, whichever is applicable. Except as is required by subparagraph (2) of this paragraph, this percentage must satisfy both of the following requirements:

(a) It must be the same percentage for each policy year between the second policy anniversary and the later of the fifth policy anniversary or the first policy anniversary at which there is available under the policy a cash surrender value in an amount, before

including any paid-up additions and before deducting any indebtedness, of at least two-tenths of one percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance is uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years.

(b) It must be such that no percentage after the later of the two policy anniversaries specified in division (a) of this subparagraph may apply to fewer than five consecutive policy years.

(2) A basic cash value shall not be less than the value which would be obtained if the adjusted premiums for the policy, as defined in subsection 5 or 6, whichever is applicable, were substituted for the nonforfeiture factors in the calculation of the basic cash value.

d. Adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this subsection shall for a particular policy be calculated on the same mortality and interest bases as are used in demonstrating the policy's compliance with the other subsections of this section. The cash surrender values referred to in this subsection shall include any endowment benefits provided for by the policy.

e. Any cash surrender value available other than in the event of default in a premium payment due on a policy anniversary, and the amount of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment, shall be determined in manners consistent with the manners specified for determining the analogous minimum amounts in subsections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8. The amounts of any cash surrender values and of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefits granted in connection with additional benefits such as those described in subsection 8 shall conform with the principles of this subsection.

10. a. This section does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) Reinsurance.
- (2) Group insurance.
- (3) Pure endowment contracts.
- (4) Annuity or reversionary annuity contracts.

(5) A term policy of uniform amount which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, or a renewal thereof of twenty years or less expiring before age seventy-one, for which uniform premiums are payable during the entire term of the policy.

(6) A term policy of decreasing amount, which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, on which each adjusted premium, calculated as specified in subsections 5 and 6, is less than the adjusted premium so calculated, on a term policy of uniform amount, or renewal thereof, which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, issued at the same age and for the same initial amount of insurance and for a term of twenty years or less expiring before age seventy-one, for which uniform premiums are payable during the entire term of the policy.

(7) A policy, which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, for which no cash surrender value, if any, or present value of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, at the beginning of any policy year, calculated as specified in subsections 3, 4, 5, and 6, exceeds two and one-half percent of the amount of insurance at the beginning of the same policy year.

(8) A policy delivered outside this state through an agent or other representative of the company issuing the policy.

b. For purposes of determining the applicability of this section, the age at expiry for a joint term life insurance policy shall be the age at expiry of the oldest life.

11. After July 4, 1963, a company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with this section after a specified date before January 1, 1966. The date specified by the company in the notice shall be the operative date of this section for the company, and this section shall apply to policies issued after that date by the company. If a company makes no election, the operative date of this section for the company is January 1, 1966.

[C66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §508.37; 82 Acts, ch 1072, §3 – 7]

2012 Acts, ch 1023, §105, 157; 2012 Acts, ch 1138, §72

Referred to in §508.36, 508A.5

[T] Code editor directive applied

[T] Subsection 5, paragraphs a and c amended