

MODEL REGULATION ON UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION IN LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE ON THE BASIS OF PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT

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Section 1. Authority

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted by [cite law enacting Section 12 of the NAIC Model Unfair Trade Practices Act].

Drafting Note: The Model Regulation On Unfair Discrimination In Life and Health Insurance On The Basis Of Physical Or Mental Impairment is designed to implement Section 4G of the Model Unfair Trade Practices Act. This section prohibits “any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class and equal expectation of life in ... any contract of life insurance or of life annuity” and “any unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class and essentially same hazard in ... any policy or contract of health insurance ...”

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to identify specific acts or practices in life and health insurance which are prohibited by Section 4G(1) and (2) of the Unfair Trade Practices Act cited in Section 1 of this regulation.

Drafting Note: The need for a model regulation has arisen because of questions as to whether life and health insurers are, in all cases, making fair determinations of which individuals are “of the same class and equal expectation of life” (or “essentially the same hazard”). The main purpose of the model regulation is to make clear that life and health insurers cannot classify individuals arbitrarily without a rational basis for each decision.

Section 3. Unfairly Discriminatory Acts or Practices

The following are hereby identified as acts or practices in life and health insurance which constitute unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class: refusing to insure, or refusing to continue to insure, or limiting the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to an individual, or charging a different rate for the same coverage solely because of a physical or mental impairment, except where the refusal, limitation or rate differential is based on sound actuarial principles or is related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience.

Drafting Note: This model regulation sets forth standards which require that life and health insurers be objective and fair in placing individuals with physical or mental impairments in various risk classifications.

The model regulation does not restrict a life or health insurer’s choice of the number and size of rating classes which it will use. Many life and health insurer’s have a number of extra premium classes. Some life and health insurers, however, have relatively simple underwriting procedures and only two risk classes: accept and reject. In group insurance elaborate underwriting procedures and a multiplicity of rating classes are not available because this is not consistent with the overall aim of group insurance of providing insurance to many people at low administrative cost. Similar simplicity is desirable in some other marketing situations (e.g., individual policy pension plans and direct mail business).

The regulation is not intended to mandate the inclusion of particular coverages, such as benefits for normal pregnancy, or of levels of benefits such as for mental illness, in a company’s policies or contracts. In virtually every state, mandates of any coverages or benefits are the subject of separate legislation. The model unfair trade practices act has never been interpreted to provide the basis for such mandates but rather to assure that such coverage and benefits as are offered by insurers are provided on a basis which is not unfairly discriminatory among individuals of the same class.

To make life and health insurance available to as many individuals as possible, the regulation does not restrict the use of riders (“waivers”) which exclude from coverage risks related to impairments which existed prior to the date on which the individual’s coverage became effective. Also, it does not restrict the use of preexisting condition limitations in health insurance contracts.

Chronological Summary of Actions (all references are to the Proceedings of the NAIC).

1979 Proc. II 31, 34, 252, 258, 262-263 (adopted).

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This chart is intended to provide readers with additional information to more easily access state statutes, regulations, bulletins or administrative rulings related to the NAIC model. Such guidance provides readers with a starting point from which they may review how each state has addressed the model and the topic being covered. The NAIC Legal Division has reviewed each state’s activity in this area and has determined whether the citation most appropriately fits in the Model Adoption column or Related State Activity column based on the definitions listed below. The NAIC’s interpretation may or may not be shared by the individual states or by interested readers.

This chart does not constitute a formal legal opinion by the NAIC staff on the provisions of state law and should not be relied upon as such. Nor does this state page reflect a determination as to whether a state meets any applicable accreditation standards. Every effort has been made to provide correct and accurate summaries to assist readers in locating useful information. Readers should consult state law for further details and for the most current information.

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KEY:

MODEL ADOPTION: States that have citations identified in this column adopted the most recent version of the NAIC model in a **substantially similar manner**. This requires states to adopt the model in its entirety but does allow for variations in style and format. States that have adopted portions of the current NAIC model will be included in this column with an explanatory note.

RELATED STATE ACTIVITY: Examples of Related State Activity include but are not limited to: older versions of the NAIC model, statutes or regulations addressing the same subject matter, or other administrative guidance such as bulletins and notices. States that have citations identified in this column **only** (and nothing listed in the Model Adoption column) have **not** adopted the most recent version of the NAIC model in a **substantially similar manner**.

NO CURRENT ACTIVITY: No state activity on the topic as of the date of the most recent update. This includes states that have repealed legislation as well as states that have never adopted legislation.

NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
Alabama	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Alaska	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
American Samoa	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Arizona		ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE § 20-6-213 (1978).
Arkansas	28 ARK. CODE R. (1984).	
California	CAL. INS. CODE § 10144 (1984/2013); § 11512.19 (1981).	
Colorado	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Connecticut	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Delaware	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
District of Columbia	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Florida		FLA. STAT. § 627.644 (1982).
Georgia		GA. CODE ANN. § 33-6-5(8) (1985).

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NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
Guam	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Hawaii	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Idaho	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Illinois		215 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/364 (1981).
Indiana	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Iowa	IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 191-15.80 to 191-15.82 (1963/1987).	
Kansas		KAN. STAT. ANN. § 40-2,109 (1980/1986).
Kentucky	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Louisiana	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Maine	ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 24-A, § 2159-A (1980/1985).	
Maryland		MD. CODE ANN., INS. § 27-208 (1979/1997).
Massachusetts	MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 175, § 193T (1981/1985).	
Michigan		MICH. COMP. LAWS § 500.2027 (1977).
Minnesota		MINN. STAT. § 72A.20(8) (1983).
Mississippi	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Missouri	MO. CODE REGS. ANN. tit. 20, § 100-2.200 (1978/1985).	
Montana	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Nebraska	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	

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NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
Nevada	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
New Hampshire	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
New Jersey	N.J. ADMIN. CODE §§ 11:4-20.1 to 11:4-20.2 (1979/1985).	
New Mexico	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
New York	N.Y. INS. LAW §4224 (2013).	
North Carolina		N.C. GEN. STAT. § 58-51-35 (1973) (minor children).
North Dakota	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Northern Marianas	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Ohio		OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3999.16 (1976).
Oklahoma	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Oregon		OR. REV. STAT. § 746.015(2) (1979).
Pennsylvania	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Puerto Rico	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Rhode Island		R.I. GEN. LAWS § 27-2-23 (1981).
South Carolina	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
South Dakota	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Tennessee		BULLETIN 4-22-93 (1993).
Texas	28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 21.702 to 21.703 (1983/1992).	
Utah	UTAH ADMIN. CODE r. 590-129 (1989).	

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NAIC MEMBER	MODEL ADOPTION	RELATED STATE ACTIVITY
Vermont	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Virgin Islands	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Virginia		VA. CODE ANN. § 38.2-508 (1986/2013).
Washington		WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 48.30.300 (1976/2005).
West Virginia	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	
Wisconsin	Wis. ADMIN. CODE INS. § 6.67 (1980/1987).	Wis. STAT. § 628.34(3) (1975).
Wyoming	NO CURRENT ACTIVITY	