

March 18, 2009

H 678. MAKE UM/UIM INSURANCE OPTIONAL AGAIN. Filed 3/18/09. *TO RESTORE MOTORIST CHOICE WITH RESPECT TO UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE COVERAGE.*

Amends GS 20-279.21 to provide that a person may reject coverage for uninsured and underinsured motorists when purchasing a motor vehicle bodily injury liability insurance policy. Requires that an insured that rejects either coverage must do so in writing on a form promulgated by the North Carolina Rate Bureau (Bureau) and approved by the Commissioner of Insurance (Commissioner). Provides that if the named insured does not reject coverage or selects different coverage limits, the amount of coverage is equal to the highest limit of bodily injury and property damage liability coverage for any one vehicle in the policy. Once the option is offered to an insured, the insurer is not required to offer the option in any renewal, reinstatement, substitute, amended, altered, modified, transferred, or replacement policy, unless the insured makes a written request to exercise a different option. Requires that selection of different coverage limits be made in writing on a form promulgated by the Bureau and approved by the Commissioner. Makes a conforming change by deleting language that exempted commercial vehicles from requiring uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. Makes technical and organizational changes, including creating captions for each sub-subdivision. Effective for policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2009.

Intro. by Allen.

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