

to the making, filing and approval of rates for fire, inland marine and allied lines of insurance, and to rating organizations.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new section be and the same is hereby added to Article 48A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Insurance", sub-title "Fire Insurance", said new section to follow immediately after Section 99 and to be known as Section 99A.

99A. FIRE AND ALLIED INSURANCE RATING.

1. (Scope of Act.) The provisions of this Act shall apply to all types and classes of insurance written by stock and mutual fire or fire and marine insurance companies, including reciprocals or inter-insurers and Lloyds or Associations operating on a Lloyds Plan, against loss to property or to any valuable interest therein, located in this State, including all insurance which is now or hereafter defined by statute, by ruling of the Commissioner or by lawful custom as Inland Marine Insurance, but shall not apply to insurance on vessels or craft, their cargoes, marine builder's risk, marine protection and indemnity or other risks commonly insured under Marine, as distinguished from Inland Marine, insurance policies, or to Aviation insurance.

2. (Approval of Rates.) On and after June 1, 1946, no policy of insurance shall be issued at a charge or premium, the rate for which has not been filed with and approved by the Insurance Commissioner, provided, however, filing with and approval by the Insurance Commissioner of a specific rate for any policy of insurance shall not be required.

(a) If for a type of insurance and risk coming within a class for which rates, rating schedules, rating methods or underwriting rules have previously been filed with and approved by the Insurance Commissioner, or

(b) If for risks which are designated, with the approval of the Insurance Commissioner, as having essential elements of such nature and variation as to make the application of standard methods of rating by classification or by schedule designed to measure the relative hazard impractical.

An insurer may satisfy its obligation to make such filings by becoming a member of, or a subscriber to, a licensed rating organization which makes such filings, and by authorizing the Commissioner to accept such filings on its behalf.

Any and all rates, except as provided for above in subparagraph (a), rate classifications, rating methods, schedules, underwriting rules, by-laws or regulations shall be submitted for approval to the Insurance Commissioner by an insurer, its