Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## Article - Insurance

27 - 605.

- (c) (3) The notice must state in clear and specific terms:
  - (i) the proposed action to be taken, including:
- 1. for a premium increase, the amount of the increase and the type of coverage to which it is applicable; and
- 2. for a reduction in coverage, the type of coverage reduced and the extent of the reduction;
  - (ii) the proposed effective date of the action;
- (iii) subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, the actual reason of the insurer for proposing to take the action;
- (iv) if there is coupled with the notice an offer to continue or renew the policy in accordance with  $\S 27-606$  of this subtitle:
- $1. \hspace{0.5cm} \hbox{the name of the individual or individuals to be excluded} \\$  from coverage; and
- 2. the premium amount if the policy is continued or renewed with the named individual or individuals excluded from coverage;
- (v) the right of the insured to replace the insurance through the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund and the current address and telephone number of the Fund;
- (vi) the right of the insured to protest the proposed action of the insurer and, except in the case of a premium increase of 15% or less for the entire policy, request a hearing before the Commissioner on the proposed action by signing two copies of the notice and sending them to the Commissioner within 30 days after the mailing date of the notice;
- (vii) except for a premium increase of 15% or less for the entire policy, that if a protest is filed by the insured, the insurer must maintain the current insurance in effect until a final determination is made by the Commissioner, subject to the payment of any authorized premium due or becoming due before the determination;
- (viii) [the authority of the Commissioner to award reasonable attorney fees to the insured for representation at a hearing if the Commissioner finds the proposed action of the insurer to be unjustified] IF THE COMMISSIONER FINDS THE PROPOSED ACTION OF THE INSURER TO BE UNJUSTIFIED UNSUPPORTED BY