

agents to provide a certain disclosure to insureds with respect to personal lines automobile insurance; ~~providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act;~~ and generally relating to discrimination against independent agents and insurance premium financing.

BY adding to

Article — Insurance

Section 10-133

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article — Insurance

Section 23-505.1 and 23-505.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

Article - Insurance

10-133:

~~AN INDEPENDENT AGENT MAY NOT NEGOTIATE OR PLACE A PREMIUM FINANCE AGREEMENT WITH A PREMIUM FINANCE COMPANY IN WHICH THE INDEPENDENT AGENT HAS A DIRECT OR INDIRECT OWNERSHIP INTEREST.~~

23-505.1.

(A) An insurer that markets through independent agents as defined in this article may not[, with respect to commercial automobile, fire, or liability insurance]:

(1) refuse to issue or deny the issuance of a policy because premiums have been advanced by a registered premium finance company not affiliated with the insurer; or

(2) require an insured to use a particular premium finance company or other installment plan.

~~(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO LIFE INSURANCE OR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGES, EXCEPT THOSE COVERAGES DESCRIBED IN § 20-604 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

23-505.2.

(A) An insurer that markets through independent agents as defined in this article may not[, with respect to commercial automobile, fire, or liability insurance,] discriminate, intimidate, or retaliate against an agent, broker, or insured that uses premium financing by denying the agent, broker, or insured the same rights accorded to agents, brokers, or insureds who pay premiums in a different manner.