Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 147

By Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

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AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to automobile liability insurance; modifying uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage liability limitations for bodily injury or death; amending K.S.A. 40-284 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 40-284 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-284. (a) No automobile liability insurance policy covering liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of any motor vehicle shall be *renewed,* delivered or issued for delivery in this state *on or after January 1, 2026,* with respect to any motor vehicle registered or principally garaged in this state, unless the policy contains or has endorsed thereon, a provision with coverage limits equal to the limits of liability coverage for bodily injury or death in such automobile liability insurance policy sold to the named insured for payment of part or all sums ~~which~~ *that* the insured or the insured's legal representative shall be legally entitled to recover as damages from the uninsured owner or operator of a motor vehicle because of bodily injury, sickness or disease, including death, resulting therefrom, sustained by the insured, caused by accident and arising out of ownership, maintenance or use of such motor vehicle, or providing for such payment irrespective of legal liability of the insured or any other person or organization. No insurer shall be required to offer, provide or make available coverage conforming to this section in connection with any excess policy, umbrella policy or any other policy ~~which~~ *that* does not provide primary motor vehicle insurance for liabilities arising out of the ownership, maintenance, operation or use of a specifically insured motor vehicle.

(b) Any uninsured motorist coverage shall include an underinsured motorist provision ~~which enables~~ *that has coverage limits equal to the limits of liability provided by such uninsured motorist coverage enabling* the insured or the insured's legal representative to recover from the insurer the amount of damages for bodily injury or death to which the insured is legally entitled from the owner or operator of another motor vehicle ~~with coverage limits equal to the limits of liability provided by such uninsured motorist coverage~~ to the extent such ~~coverage exceeds the limits of~~ *damages exceed the proceeds reasonably available to the insured from* the

bodily injury coverage carried by the owner or operator of the other motor vehicle. *In no event shall the amount of underinsured motorist coverage be reduced because of any liability limit or payment by or on behalf of the owner or operator of the other motor vehicle or any third party.*

(c) The insured named in the policy shall have the right to reject, in writing, the uninsured motorist coverage required by subsections (a) and (b) ~~which~~ *that* is in excess of the limits for bodily injury or death set forth in K.S.A. 40-3107, and amendments thereto. A rejection by an insured named in the policy of the uninsured motorist coverage shall be a rejection on behalf of all parties insured by the policy. Unless the insured named in the policy requests such coverage in writing, such coverage need not be provided in any subsequent policy issued by the same insurer for motor vehicles owned by the named insured, including, but not limited to, supplemental, renewal, reinstated, transferred or substitute policies ~~where~~ *if* the named insured had rejected the coverage in connection with a policy previously issued to the insured by the same insurer.

(d) Coverage under the policy shall be limited to the extent that the total limits available cannot exceed the highest limits of any single applicable policy, regardless of the number of policies involved, persons covered, claims made, vehicles or premiums shown on the policy or premiums paid or vehicles involved in an accident.

(e) Any insurer may provide for the exclusion or limitation of coverage:

(1) When the insured is occupying or struck by an uninsured automobile or trailer owned or provided for the insured's regular use;

(2) when the uninsured automobile is owned by a self-insurer or any governmental entity;

(3) when there is no evidence of physical contact with the uninsured motor vehicle and when there is no reliable competent evidence to prove the facts of the accident from a disinterested witness not making claim under the policy;

(4) to the extent that workers' compensation benefits apply;

(5) when suit is filed against the uninsured motorist without notice to the insurance carrier; and

(6) to the extent that personal injury protection benefits apply.

(f) An underinsured motorist coverage insurer shall have subrogation rights under the provisions of K.S.A. 40-287, and amendments thereto. If a tentative agreement to settle for liability limits has been reached with an underinsured tortfeasor, written notice ~~must~~ *shall* be given by certified mail to the underinsured motorist coverage insurer by its insured. Such written notice shall include written documentation of pecuniary losses incurred, including copies of all medical bills and written authorization or a court order to obtain reports from all employers and medical providers.

Within 60 days of receipt of this written notice, the underinsured motorist coverage insurer may substitute its payment to the insured for the tentative settlement amount. The underinsured motorist coverage insurer ~~is~~ *shall* then *be* subrogated to the insured's right of recovery to the extent of such payment and any settlement under the underinsured motorist coverage. If the underinsured motorist coverage insurer fails to pay the insured the amount of the tentative tort settlement within 60 days, the underinsured motorist coverage insurer ~~has~~ *shall have* no right of subrogation for any amount paid under the underinsured motorist coverage.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 40-284 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after January 1, 2026, and its publication in the statute book.