Florida Senate - 2006

By Senator Fasano

11-962-06

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to motor vehicle insurance;
3	amending s. 627.744, F.S.; deleting a provision
4	that exempts policies issued in certain
5	counties from the requirement that a private
6	passenger vehicle undergo a preinsurance
7	inspection; deleting a requirement that a
8	physical imprint or other record be made of the
9	vehicle identification number; requiring that a
10	preinsurance inspection include certain color
11	images of the vehicle; providing for suspension
12	of physical damage coverage if the preinsurance
13	inspection is not completed within a specified
14	period; requiring notice and an adjustment in
15	the premium upon suspension of physical damage
16	coverage; providing an effective date.
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18	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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20	Section 1. Section 627.744, Florida Statutes, is
21	amended to read:
22	627.744 Required preinsurance inspection of private
23	passenger motor vehicles
24	(1) A private passenger motor vehicle insurance policy
25	providing physical damage coverage, including collision or
26	comprehensive coverage, may not be issued in this state unless
27	the insurer has inspected the motor vehicle in accordance with
28	this section.
29	(2) This section does not apply:
30	(a) To a policy for a policyholder who has been
31	insured for 2 years or longer, without interruption, under a
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1 private passenger motor vehicle policy that which provides 2 physical damage coverage, if the agent of the insurer verifies the previous coverage. 3 (b) To a new, unused motor vehicle purchased from a 4 licensed motor vehicle dealer or leasing company, if the 5 6 insurer is provided with: 7 1. A bill of sale or buyer's order that which contains 8 a full description of the motor vehicle, including all options 9 and accessories; or 10 2. A copy of the title which establishes transfer of ownership from the dealer or leasing company to the customer 11 12 and a copy of the window sticker or the dealer invoice showing 13 the itemized options and equipment and the total retail price of the vehicle. 14 15 For the purposes of this paragraph, the physical damage 16 17 coverage on the motor vehicle may not be suspended during the term of the policy due to the applicant's failure to provide 18 the required documents. However, payment of a claim is 19 conditioned upon the receipt by the insurer of the required 20 21 documents, and no physical damage loss occurring after the 22 effective date of the coverage is payable until the documents 23 are provided to the insurer. (c) To a temporary substitute motor vehicle. 2.4 (d) To a motor vehicle that which is leased for less 25 than 6 months, if the insurer receives the lease or rental 26 27 agreement containing a description of the leased motor 2.8 vehicle, including its condition. Payment of a physical damage claim is conditioned upon receipt of the lease or 29 30 rental agreement. 31

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1 (e) To a vehicle that is 10 years old or older, as 2 determined by reference to the model year. 3 (f) To any renewal policy. 4 (g) To a motor vehicle policy issued in a county with a 1988 estimated population of less than 500,000. 5 б (q) (h) To any other vehicle or policy exempted by rule 7 of the commission. The commission may base a rule under this paragraph only on a determination that the likelihood of a 8 fraudulent physical damage claim is remote or that the 9 10 inspection would cause a serious hardship to the insurer or the applicant. 11 12 (h)(i) When the insurer's authorized inspection 13 service has no inspection facility either in the municipality in which the automobile is principally garaged or within 10 14 miles of such municipality. 15 (i) (i) (i) When the insured vehicle is insured under a 16 17 commercially rated policy that insures five or more vehicles. (j)(k) When an insurance producer is transferring a 18 book of business from one insurer to another. 19 (k)(1) When an individual insured's coverage is being 20 21 transferred and initiated by a producer to a new insurer. 22 (3) This subsection does not prohibit an insurer from 23 requiring a preinsurance inspection of any motor vehicle as a condition of issuance of physical damage coverage. 2.4 25 (4) The inspection required by this section shall be provided by the insurer or by a person or organization 26 27 authorized by the insurer. The applicant may be required to 2.8 pay the cost of the inspection, not to exceed \$5. The 29 inspection shall be recorded on a form prescribed by the commission, and the insurer shall be provided with direct and 30 timely access to the inspection and the images via the 31

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1 Internet or the form or a copy shall be retained by the insurer with its policy records for the insured. The insurer 2 shall provide a copy of the form to the insured upon request. 3 Any inspection fee paid directly by the applicant may not be 4 considered part of the premium. However, an insurer that 5 6 provides the inspection at no cost to the applicant may 7 include the expense of the inspection within a rate filing. 8 (5) The inspection shall include at least the 9 following: 10 (a) Taking a physical imprint of the vehicle identification number of the vehicle or otherwise recording 11 12 the vehicle identification number in a manner prescribed by 13 the commission. (a)(b) Recording the presence of accessories required 14 15 by the commission to be recorded. 16 (b)(c) Recording the locations of and a description of 17 existing damage to the vehicle. 18 (c) Taking two color images at oblique angles, clearly showing all four sides of the vehicle and any observable prior 19 damage, and taking one color image of the Motor Vehicle Safety 20 21 Standard Label, which includes the vehicle identification 22 number. As used in this paragraph, the term "color image" 23 means any technology producing a clear visual image in color, including, but not limited to, an instant-type photograph, a 2.4 photograph using the film process, a digital photograph, or 25 other digital-imaging process that may be accessed, stored, 26 27 and retrieved via the Internet. 2.8 (6) An insurer may defer an inspection for <u>10 business</u> 29 30 calendar days following the effective date of coverage for a new policy, but not for a renewal policy, and for additional 30 or replacement vehicles to an existing policy, if an 31

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1	inspection at the time of the request for coverage would
2	create a serious inconvenience for the applicant and such
3	hardship is documented in the insured's policy record.
4	(7)(a) The physical damage coverage, including
5	collision and comprehensive coverage, for which preinspection
6	is required under this section shall be suspended if the
7	preinsurance inspection is not completed within 10 business
8	days after the effective date of the coverage. Suspension of
9	coverage applies to all insureds, owners, and lienholders.
10	(b) If physical damage coverage, including collision
11	and comprehensive coverage, is suspended, the insurer shall:
12	1. No later than the 30th calendar day after the
13	effective date of suspension, mail a notice of suspension of
14	physical damage coverage to the insured, the producer of
15	record, and any lienholder of record;
16	2. Obtain a certificate of mailing or other evidence
17	of mailing the notice of suspension of physical damage
18	coverage to the insured and retain the certificate and copy of
19	the notice with the insurer's policy records for the insured;
20	and
21	3. Make a pro rata adjustment to the premium in the
22	form of a premium refund or credit if the physical damage
23	coverage is suspended for more than 10 days. A refund of
24	premium, if applicable, shall be sent to the insured within 45
25	days after the effective date of the suspension.
26	<u>(c) A reinstatement of physical damage coverage is</u>
27	effective only upon inspection and payment by the insured to
28	the insurer of the adjusted premium for the physical damage
29	coverage in full or in accordance with the insurer's normal
30	payment plan. Such reinstatement is effective at the time of
31	inspection.

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SB 1294

1	(8)(7) The commission may, by rule, establish such
2	procedures and notice requirements that it finds necessary to
3	administer implement this section.
4	Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2006.
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7	SENATE SUMMARY
8	Deletes a provision exempting policies issued in certain counties from the requirement that a private passenger
9	motor vehicle undergo a preinsurance inspection. Deletes a requirement that a physical imprint or other record be
10 made of the vehicle identification number. Requires t a preinsurance inspection include certain color image	made of the vehicle identification number. Requires that a preinsurance inspection include certain color images of
11	the vehicle. Requires that physical damage coverage be suspended if the preinsurance inspection is not completed
12	within 10 business days. Requires an adjustment in the premium upon suspension of physical damage coverage.
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