

March 25, 2025

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chair, House Committee On Corporations
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House 5571 – An Act Relating To Insurance – Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This statement in support of H.5571 is submitted by the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA).¹ The bill amends several subsections in the Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act (Section 27-9.1-4) to clarify the definitions of unfair claims practices pertaining to insurers with regard to appraisals and total losses. It also corrects a citation regarding salvage and reconstructed titles.

This bill amends subsection (25) by changing the appraisal threshold amount from the current \$2500 to \$5000. The General Assembly doubled the auto insurance surcharge threshold from \$1500 to \$3000 in 2019 and this bill does the same to the appraisal threshold. \$5000 is also under the size of the average claim (\$6100), but just about the same as the average collision repair bill (\$5003) in the state. It would also allow insurers to focus time and resources on larger claims. It further amends this section by lifting the prohibition on the use of pictures and video in appraisals increasing convenience for insurers, insureds, and auto body shops alike by utilizing readily available modern technology.

This bill amends subsection (27) to set the timeframe for the performance of an initial appraisal at four days instead of the current three. This is the timeframe for the performance of a supplemental appraisal and there is no reason why they should differ. This is simply an attempt to provide some simplifications and consistency in order to prevent confusion and mistakes.

The proposed change in subsection (29) is likely to engender opposition. It expands the universe of nationally recognized compilations of vehicle values to those also used by the insurance industry. This would allow products from vendors other than Kelly Blue Book and NADA to be used. In the years since the law was changed to restrict the universe of nationally recognized compilations of vehicle values to those commonly used by the automotive industry, no other provider has been successful in meeting this criteria. APCIA believes that insurers and consumers as a whole benefit from having a wider range of values to consider.

APCIA appreciates the opportunity to provide its comments in support of this bill.

Very truly yours,



Jonathan Schreiber
Associate Vice President, State Government Relations, APCIA
Jonathan.schreiber@apci.org, (202) 828-7121

¹ Representing nearly 65% of the U.S. property casualty insurance market, APCIA promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers. APCIA represents the broadest cross-section of home, auto, and business insurers of any national trade association. APCIA members represent all sizes, structures, and regions, which protect families, communities, and businesses in the U.S. and across the globe. Several APCIA members are located in Rhode Island and many more do business here. Together, APCIA members write over 75% of auto insurance sold in the state.