

may be necessary, to pay expenses of issuing the refunding bonds authorized by this 1979 act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House March 8, 1979.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1979.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1979.

CHAPTER 132

[House Bill No. 677]

COUNTY SHERIFF AND DEPUTIES—CLOTHING AND INCIDENTALS ALLOWANCE

AN ACT Relating to local government law enforcement officers; and amending section 2, chapter 50, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.28.180.

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

Section 1. Section 2, chapter 50, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.28.180 are each amended to read as follows:

A county may from available funds provide for ~~((a uniform))~~ an allowance for clothing and other incidentals necessary to the performance of official duties for the sheriff and his deputies.

Passed the House February 22, 1979.

Passed the Senate March 2, 1979.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1979.

CHAPTER 133

[Substitute House Bill No. 109]

INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE CONTRACTS—NOTICE OF REASON FOR CANCELLATION

AN ACT Relating to insurance; adding new sections to chapter 48.30 RCW; and adding new sections to chapter 48.44 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 48.30 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Every authorized insurer, upon canceling, denying, or refusing to renew any individual life, individual disability, homeowner, dwelling fire, or private passenger automobile insurance policy, shall, upon written request, directly notify in writing the applicant or insured, as the case may be, of the reasons for the action by the insurer. Any benefits, terms, rates, or conditions of such an insurance contract which are restricted, excluded, modified, increased, or reduced because of the presence of a sensory, mental, or physical handicap shall, upon written request, be set forth in writing and supplied to the insured. The written communications required by this section shall be phrased in simple language which is readily understandable to a person of average intelligence, education, and reading ability.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 48.30 RCW a new section to read as follows:

With respect to contracts of insurance as defined in section 1 of this act, there shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, the insurance commissioner, the commissioner's agents, or members of the commissioner's staff, or against any insurer, its authorized representative, its agents, its employees, furnishing to the insurer information as to reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, for libel or slander on the basis of any statement made by any of them in any written notice of cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, or in any other communications, oral or written, specifying the reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew or the providing of information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence submitted in any hearing conducted in connection therewith.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 48.44 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Every authorized health care service contractor, upon canceling, denying, or refusing to renew any individual health care service contract, shall, upon written request, directly notify in writing the applicant or insured, as the case may be, of the reasons for the action by the health care service contractor. Any benefits, terms, rates, or conditions of such a contract which are restricted, excluded, modified, increased, or reduced because of the presence of a sensory, mental, or physical handicap shall, upon written request, be set forth in writing and supplied to the insured. The written communications required by this section shall be phrased in simple language which is readily understandable to a person of average intelligence, education, and reading ability.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. There is added to chapter 48.44 RCW a new section to read as follows:

With respect to health care service contracts as defined in section 3 of this act, there shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of

any nature shall arise against, the insurance commissioner, the commissioner's agents, or members of the commissioner's staff, or against any health care service contractor, its authorized representative, its agents, its employees, furnishing to the health care service contractor information as to reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, for libel or slander on the basis of any statement made by any of them in any written notice of cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, or in any other communications, oral or written, specifying the reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew or the providing of information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence submitted in any hearing conducted in connection therewith.

Passed the House March 7, 1979.

Passed the Senate March 2, 1979.

Approved by the Governor March 27, 1979.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 27, 1979.

CHAPTER 134

[House Bill No. 141]

MOTOR VEHICLES—TONNAGE LICENSE FEES—PROPORTIONAL REGISTRATION

AN ACT Relating to motor vehicle licensing; amending section 46.16.135, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 3, chapter 64, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 46.16.135; amending section 14, chapter 106, Laws of 1963 and RCW 46.85.140; amending section 6, chapter 51, Laws of 1971 and RCW 46.85.145; repealing section 46.16.137, chapter 12, Laws of 1961, section 17, chapter 32, Laws of 1967, section 1, chapter 172, Laws of 1974 ex. sess., section 7, chapter 118, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess., section 4, chapter 64, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 46.16.137; and repealing section 46.16.138, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 and RCW 46.16.138.

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

Section 1. Section 46.16.135, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 3, chapter 64, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 46.16.135 are each amended to read as follows:

Tonnage for ~~((motor trucks, trailers, tractors, pole trailers, or semitrailers))~~ any vehicle or combination of vehicles having a declared gross weight ~~((in excess of twenty))~~ of twelve thousand pounds or more may be purchased for any full registration ~~((quarter at one-fourth))~~ month or months at one-twelfth of the usual annual tonnage fee ~~((: PROVIDED, That the fee for the registration quarter in which the vehicle is licensed shall be reduced by one-twelfth of the usual tonnage fee for each full registration month of the registration quarter that shall have elapsed at the time the vehicle is licensed))~~ multiplied by the number of full months for which tonnage is purchased. An additional fee of ~~((one))~~ two dollars shall be charged by the