



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103P (May 2009)
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Permanent Rule Only

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

Yes **No**

If Yes, explain: RCW 48.30.010 requires that Commissioner include a detailed description of the facts upon which he relied and of facts upon which he failed to rely in defining the method of competition or other act or practice in the conduct of insurance to be unfair or deceptive in the concise explanatory statement.

Purpose: The rule amends WAC 284-23-550 to provide for a variable interest rate to be paid by the insurer based upon current interest rates, rather than a set rate. The rule also amends WAC 284-23-550 to provide that it does not apply to policies with a death benefit of more than \$5,000 rather than \$25,000.

Insurance Commissioner Matter No. R 2013-26

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed:

Amended: WAC 284-23-550

Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 48.02.060 and RCW 48.30.010.

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 14-18-067 on August 29, 2014.

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

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Date adopted: October 22, 2014

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Mike Kreidler

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Insurance Commissioner

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 22, 2014

TIME: 10:29 AM

WSR 14-21-178

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	_____	Amended	1	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	_____	Amended	1	Repealed	_____

WAC 284-23-550 Relationship of death benefits to premiums—Unfair practice defined. (1) It is an unfair practice for any insurer or fraternal benefit society to provide life insurance coverage on any person through a policy or certificate of coverage delivered on or after July 1, 1989, to or on behalf of such person in this state, unless the benefit payable at death under such policy or certificate will equal or exceed the cumulative premiums, as defined in subsection (4) of this section, paid for the policy or certificate, plus interest thereon at the rate of (~~five percent per annum~~) the monthly average of the five-year Constant Maturity Treasury rate reported by the Federal Reserve for the calendar month in which application for the policy is made compounded annually to the tenth anniversary of the effective date of coverage.

(2) This section applies to death benefits in relation to premiums, subject to the following provisions:

(a) When determining the relationship between benefits and premiums as set forth in subsection (1) of this section, neither premiums nor death benefits shall be adjusted for maturity benefits, surrender benefits, or policy loans.

(b) Annuity benefits, including annuity death benefits, and the premiums therefor shall be disregarded in applying this section.

(c) The following benefits, but not the premiums therefor, shall be disregarded in applying this section:

(i) Accidental death benefits;

(ii) Permanent disability benefits; and

(iii) Any benefit similar to (c)(i) or (ii) of this subsection.

(3) For coverage which varies by duration, including coverage provided through dividends, the "benefit payable at death" for purposes of this section is the sum of the least death benefit during each policy year, for the lesser of ten years or the term of the coverage, including renewals, divided by the number of death benefits included in said sum.

(4) "Cumulative premiums," for purposes of this section, means all sums paid as consideration, net of dividends paid in cash in an orderly progression, for the coverage during the first ten years of the coverage, excluding amounts which are designated in the policy or certificate as providing for annuity benefits.

(5) The benefits required by this section shall be provided contractually.

(6) This section does not apply to:

(a) Life insurance where the minimum death benefit is (~~twenty-five~~) five thousand dollars or more; or

(b) Coverage under group life insurance policies unless the insured pays all or substantially all of the premium and coverage under individual conversions from such excluded policies; or

(c) Limited payment whole life insurance where the premiums are level at all times, if the least death benefit payable at any time equals or exceeds the total of all premiums which, in the absence of death, would have been paid over the entire limited payment period.

(7) This section does not apply with respect to optional additional contributions paid to the insurer or fraternal benefit society under the terms of a universal life policy, which policy:

(a) Provides a guaranteed plan of insurance of at least ten years' duration on the basis of specified premiums and complies with subsections (1) through (5) of this section; and

(b) Contains a carefully expressed provision which clearly, fairly, and fully discloses the optional plan and the choice to participate therein; and

(c) Is designed so that the charges for, and the benefits to be derived from, the optional contributions are no less favorable to the insured than those which are applicable to the guaranteed plan required by (a) of this subsection.

(8) Approval of policy forms which do not comply with this section is withdrawn.