

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE IMPOSITION OF)
A SURCHARGE FOR RECOUPMENT OF)
THE NEW JERSEY PROPERTY-LIABILITY) ORDER
INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION)
ASSESSMENT DUE SEPTEMBER 16,2020 AND)
IMPOSED PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3))

This matter having been opened by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance (“the Commissioner”) pursuant to the authority of N.J.S.A. 17:1-8.1, 17:1-15(e), and 17:30A-1 to -20 and N.J.A.C. 11:1-6, and all powers expressed or implied therein; and

IT APPEARING that N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3) requires the New Jersey Property-Liability Insurance Guaranty Association (“the Association”) to assess its member insurers in amounts necessary to pay the covered claims of insolvent insurers under N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 the expenses of handling covered claims, the costs of examinations, and other authorized expenses; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that P.L. 2003, c. 89, enacted June 9, 2003 (“the Act”), consolidates within the Association several administrative functions related to payment of automobile insurance claims, including the elimination of the Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment Fund (“the UCJF”) Board and the transfer of the powers and duties of the UCJF Board to the Association; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that the Act amended N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3) to provide that the Association shall also assess member insurers in amounts necessary to reimburse an insurer for medical expense benefits in excess of \$75,000 per person per accident (“EMB”) as provided

in N.J.S.A. 39:6-73.1 for injuries covered under an automobile insurance policy issued prior to January 1, 2004; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that pursuant to NJPLIGA Bulletin 2020-003, dated May 15, 2020, the Association notified member companies that it will issue a notice on August 3, 2020, assessing each member insurer 0.6 percent of the net direct written premiums for policies to which N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 applies, which assessment will be due to be paid on or before September 16, 2020; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 applies to all kinds of direct insurance except life insurance, accident and health insurance, workers' compensation insurance, title insurance, annuities, surety bonds, credit insurance, mortgage guaranty insurance, municipal bond coverage, fidelity insurance, investment return assurance, ocean marine insurance, and pet health insurance; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that N.J.S.A. 17:30A-16(a) requires the Commissioner to promulgate rules by which member insurers may recoup assessments paid to the Association pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3) by way of a surcharge on premium; and that N.J.S.A. 17:30A-16(c) provides that member insurers shall recoup amounts assessed for reimbursement of EMB; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that in order to implement the provisions of N.J.S.A. 17:30A-16(a), the Commissioner adopted administrative rules at N.J.A.C. 11:1-6, effective September 3, 1991, which require that, upon a determination that a surcharge on premiums is necessary to permit member insurers to recoup assessments paid to the Association pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3), the Commissioner shall by order permit member insurers to impose a surcharge on net direct written premiums for policies to which N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 applies, and adopted

amendments to those rules effective December 15, 2003, to reflect the enactment of N.J.S.A. 17:30A-16(c); and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that since, by the notice issued August 3, 2020, each member insurer is assessed in an amount equal to 0.6 percent of the net direct written premiums on insurance policies written by the member insurer to which N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 applies, and to provide sufficient notice for member companies to make necessary system changes, it is appropriate and reasonable at this time, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3), to advise member insurers that will have paid the assessment due on or before September 16, 2020, that they will be permitted to recoup the amount of the assessment so paid by imposing a surcharge on the net direct written premiums written by the member insurer on policies to which N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 applies in an amount of 0.6 percent; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that since the total net direct written premium for all lines of insurance to which N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 applies for the calendar year ended December 31, 2019, was approximately \$17.8 billion, such a surcharge should permit member insurers to recoup the assessment paid to the Association pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3) over a reasonable time and is otherwise consistent with the time period for recoupment set forth in N.J.S.A. 17:30A-16(c); and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that, on August 16, 2019, the Commissioner issued Order No. A19-107, which permitted insurers to recoup the assessment due on or before September 16, 2019, by imposing a surcharge in the amount of 0.6 percent on policies to which N.J.S.A. 17:30A-1 to -20 applied that were issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2019; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that consistent with procedures established in Order No. A94-224 and utilized with respect to the recoupment of all subsequent assessments, to the extent an

insurer has recouped or recoups an amount in excess of any prior assessment, such an insurer shall utilize those excess monies as an “offset” to the recoupment of the assessment due September 16, 2020, and shall not impose any surcharge to recoup that assessment unless and until the offset is exhausted and the insurer at that time has not fully recouped the said assessment; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that the procedures established by this Order will permit member insurers to recoup the assessment, due on or before September 16, 2020, and paid to the Association pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3), over a reasonable time and consistent with N.J.S.A. 17:30A-16(c); and

IT FURTHER APPEARING that it is reasonable and appropriate to provide member insurers sufficient time to implement or modify necessary recordkeeping and other systems to impose the surcharge in accordance with N.J.A.C. 11:1-6 and the terms of this Order, and it is appropriate to permit member insurers to impose a surcharge on policies that are issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2020.

THEREFORE, IT IS on this 9 day of September, 2020, ORDERED that:

1. Except as provided in paragraph 3 below, every member insurer of the Association that has paid the assessment to the Association that is due on or before September 16, 2020, may, pursuant N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3), impose a surcharge in an amount not to exceed 0.6 percent of the net direct written premiums per annum for all kinds of direct insurance written by the member insurer, except life insurance, accident and health insurance, workers’ compensation insurance, title insurance, annuities, surety bonds, credit insurance, mortgage guaranty insurance, municipal bond coverage, fidelity insurance, investment return assurance, ocean marine insurance, and pet health insurance, on policies which are issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2020. To the extent that an insurer has not fully recouped the assessment due September 16, 2019, or any

previous PLIGA assessment, a surcharge may be imposed on premium for the lines set forth herein in an amount not to exceed 0.6 percent, inclusive of all recoupments that may be or have been imposed pursuant to this and any other applicable orders of the Commissioner, until such time as the September 16, 2019 or previous assessment has been recouped. For purposes of this Order, the determination of whether an insurer has recouped an assessment may be made on a holding company system basis.

2. Insurers imposing a surcharge pursuant to the terms of this Order shall comply with the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 11:1-6.

3. To the extent a member insurer has recouped amounts in excess of any prior assessment paid through imposition of the surcharge established pursuant to an applicable Order of the Commissioner, the insurer shall utilize those excess monies as an offset against the recoupment of the assessment due on or before September 16, 2020, in lieu of imposing a surcharge to recoup such assessment until such offset is exhausted. If such offset is exhausted and the insurer at that time has not fully recouped the current assessment due September 16, 2020, the insurer shall be permitted to impose a surcharge in accordance with the terms of this Order.

4. Every member insurer that has fully recouped the assessment due on or before September 16, 2020, through imposition of the surcharge set forth in paragraph 1, or through utilization of the offset as set forth in paragraph 3, shall not impose the surcharge or shall cease the imposition of the surcharge, as appropriate, at such time as the insurer has fully recouped the assessment.

5. Every member insurer that recoups amounts through the imposition of any surcharge in excess of the assessment due on or before September 16, 2020, paid to the Association pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:30A-8(a)(3) shall hold and separately account for such monies and shall

not expend or utilize such excess monies under any circumstances except as may be authorized by the Commissioner.

Failure to comply with the terms of this Order may result in the imposition of penalties as authorized by law, including, but not limited to, penalties set forth in N.J.S.A. 17:33-2.



Marlene Caride
Commissioner

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