

§ 58-55-31. Additional requirements.

(a) No policy shall be used in this State unless it provides for an offer of nonforfeiture, which shall not be less than an offer of reduced paid-up insurance benefits, extended term insurance benefits, or a shortened benefit period. No policy shall pay a cash surrender value unless the dividends or refunds are applied as a reduction of future premiums or an increase in future benefits.

(b) The Commissioner shall adopt rules to provide for annual reports by insurers of the number of claims denied, number of rescissions, and the percentage of sales involving the replacement of policies.

(c) No policy shall be used in this State unless the insurer has developed a financial or personal asset suitability test to determine whether or not issuing long-term care insurance to an applicant is appropriate. For purposes of this section:

(1) All insurers except those issuing life insurance that accelerates the death benefit for long-term care shall use the financial or suitability form and format standards as developed and adopted by the NAIC. A personal long-term care worksheet and disclosure notice of issues an applicant should know before buying long-term care insurance shall be completed and provided before an application is taken.

(2) Each applicant that does not meet the recommended financial or personal asset suitability test criteria shall receive a letter of notification and shall be given an option to waive the results of the financial suitability test and proceed with the purchase of the policy.

(d) The Commissioner shall adopt standards to handle consumer complaints about noncompliance with State requirements. (1997-259, s. 15.)