

April 9, 2009

H 1321. ALLOW UM/UIM COVERAGE CHOICE. Filed 04/08/09. *TO RESTORE MOTORIST CHOICE WITH RESPECT TO UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE COVERAGE.*

Amends GS 20-279.21 to provide that a person may reject coverage for uninsured and underinsured motorists when purchasing a motor vehicle bodily injury liability insurance policy. Requires that an insured who rejects either coverage must do so in writing on a form promulgated by the North Carolina Rate Bureau (Bureau) and approved by the Commissioner of Insurance (Commissioner). Provides that if the named insured does not reject coverage or selects different coverage limits, the amount of coverage is equal to the highest limit of bodily injury and property damage liability coverage for any one vehicle in the policy. Requires that selection of different coverage limits be made in writing on a form promulgated by the Bureau and approved by the Commissioner. Makes a conforming change by deleting language that exempted commercial vehicles from requiring uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. Makes technical and organizational changes, including creating captions for each sub-subdivision. This bill is identical to H 678, except that this bill does not include the provision excusing the insurer from offering the option in any renewal, reinstatement, substitute, amended, altered, modified, transferred, or replacement policy, unless the insured makes a written request to exercise a different option. Effective for policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2010.

Intro. by Starnes.

GS 20