

HOUSE No. 922

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Antonio F. D. Cabral

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to homeowners' insurance.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 922

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 922) of Antonio F. D. Cabral, James K. Hawkins and Brian W. Murray relative to homeowners’ insurance. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to homeowners’ insurance.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Amendments to Chapter 175. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by—

3 (a) inserting after section 99C the following section:-

4 “Section 99D. Insurers filing rates for approval by the commissioner shall submit to the
5 office of the attorney general all hurricane models, model software, methods, principles,
6 standards, data, inputs, manuals, validation studies and output ranges relevant to the insurer’s
7 hurricane loss projection model or methodology that is intended to be used during a rate
8 proceeding on an insurer’s rate filing in advance of the rate proceeding. All models , model
9 software, methods, principles, standards, data, inputs, manuals, validation studies and output
10 ranges shall be submitted to the office of the attorney general for review no later than 90 days
11 prior to being admitted as evidence during a rate proceeding before the commissioner of
12 insurance. If any insurer fails to submit any item or items required by the office of the attorney

13 general pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall direct the insurer to remove the
14 hurricane loss projection from its filing. A trade secret used in designing and constructing a
15 hurricane loss model or methodology, provided by an insurer to the center under this subsection,
16 is confidential and shall not be deemed a public record, as defined in clause 26 of section 7 of
17 chapter 4. The office of the attorney general shall maintain custody of any records made
18 confidential by this paragraph using a secure location or website. That portion of a rate
19 proceeding on an insurer's rate filing at which a trade secret is discussed shall be deemed
20 confidential and not open to disclosure under the open meetings law, but may be discussed at a
21 closed meeting as provided for in section 21 of chapter 30A. Employees, volunteers and
22 consultants of the office of the attorney general will be bound not to disclose information made
23 confidential.”; and

24 (b) inserting after section 99D the following section:-

25 “Section 99E. Any company that has offered an applicant a policy of homeowners multi-
26 peril insurance, pursuant to section 99B of this chapter or otherwise, shall modify said offer, if
27 requested to do so by the applicant, to reduce the amount of coverage offered upon a showing by
28 the applicant that the amount of coverage originally offered exceeds by more than 10 per cent the
29 greater of either the municipally assessed value of the subject property or its market value, as
30 determined by an appraiser licensed pursuant to section 174 of chapter 112. The applicant may
31 request and, if so requested, the offering company must offer a policy containing any coverage
32 amount not lower than the municipally assessed value plus ten percent of such assessed value.
33 Applicants may appeal a failure to comply with this subsection to the office of the attorney
34 general.”.

35 SECTION 2. Amendments to Chapter 175C.

36 (a) Chapter 175C of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out subsection
37 (f) of section 4, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the
38 following section:-

39 “(f) The association shall be governed by a board of 18 directors, who shall serve without
40 compensation: 10 directors shall be elected annually by the members of the association by
41 cumulative voting; 2 directors of associations of insurance agents and brokers doing business in
42 the commonwealth appointed by the commissioner; 4 directors from the general public appointed
43 by the commissioner; and 2 directors from the general public appointed by the attorney general.
44 The 6 directors appointed from the general public by the commissioner of insurance and the
45 attorney general shall serve 3 year terms, staggered in a manner to ensure the annual expiration
46 of the terms of 2 directors, and shall not serve as director for more than 3 consecutive terms. The
47 6 directors appointed from the general public may not have affiliations with the insurance
48 industry and at least 2 shall have a primary residence in Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes or
49 Nantucket counties. Cumulative voting by members shall be permitted at all such elections.”.

50 (b) Subsection (c) of section 5 of said chapter, as so appearing, is hereby further
51 amended by striking out, in lines 108-113, the third sentence.

52 (c) Said chapter is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

53 “Section 10. The association shall offer all eligible applicants a premium installment
54 payment option consisting of 10 payments.”.

55 SECTION 3. Replacement Cost Formula. Insurers offering homeowners insurance shall
56 submit the methods, models and formulas used to determine replacement costs for approval to
57 the division, with a copy to the office of the attorney general, at least annually.