

AN ACT concerning insurers.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Illinois Insurance Code is amended by
adding Section 155.39 as follows:

(215 ILCS 5/155.39 new)

Sec. 155.39. Slave era policies.

(a) The General Assembly finds and declares all of the
following:

(1) Insurance policies from the slavery era have
been discovered in the archives of several insurance
companies, documenting insurance coverage for
slaveholders for damage to or death of their slaves,
issued by a predecessor insurance firm. These documents
provide the first evidence of ill-gotten profits from
slavery, which profits in part capitalized insurers whose
successors remain in existence today.

(2) Legislation has been introduced in Congress for
the past 10 years demanding an inquiry into slavery and
its continuing legacies.

(3) The Director of Insurance and the Department of
Insurance are entitled to seek information from the files
of insurers licensed and doing business in this State,
including licensed Illinois subsidiaries of international
insurance corporations, regarding insurance policies
issued to slaveholders by predecessor corporations. The
people of Illinois are entitled to significant historical
information of this nature.

(b) The Department shall request and obtain information
from insurers licensed and doing business in this State
regarding any records of slaveholder insurance policies

issued by any predecessor corporation during the slavery era.

(c) The Department shall obtain the names of any slaveholders or slaves described in those insurance records, and shall make the information available to the public and the General Assembly.

(d) Any insurer licensed and doing business in this State shall research and report to the Department with respect to any records within the insurer's possession or knowledge relating to insurance policies issued to slaveholders that provided coverage for damage to or death of their slaves.

(e) Descendants of slaves, whose ancestors were defined as private property, dehumanized, divided from their families, forced to perform labor without appropriate compensation or benefits, and whose ancestors' owners were compensated for damages by insurers, are entitled to full disclosure.