

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 328

Introduced by Assembly Member Charles Calderon

February 18, 2009

An act to amend Section 1633.3 of the Civil Code, and to add Section 38.5 to to amend Sections 560, 570, 779.19, and 1759.7 of, to add Section 38.5 to, and to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 580) to Chapter 6 of Part 1 of Division 1 of, the Insurance Code, relating to electronic transactions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 328, as amended, Charles Calderon. Electronic transactions: exceptions.

Existing law generally permits parties to contract to conduct transactions by electronic means. Existing law excepts specific transactions regarding from this permission, including various provisions regarding insurance.

This bill would remove specified insurance provisions from the exception to the general authorization that parties may contract to conduct transactions by electronic means, ~~including, among others, provisions relating to notice of cancellation, notice of nonrenewal, proof of mailing, time of offer, and continuation of coverage.~~

Existing law generally requires, unless otherwise provided, that any required notice related to insurance transactions may be made by mail, as specified.

This bill would authorize any required notice related to casualty insurance to be made electronically with the consent of the parties, as specified.

Existing law requires insurers to pay certain covered claims by check or draft, as specified.

This bill would generally allow an insurer, with the consent of the insured, to pay covered claims by an electronic funds transfer, as specified. This bill would prohibit an insurer from requiring an insured to consent to payment by an electronic funds transfer, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1633.3 of the Civil Code is amended to
2 read:

3 1633.3. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (b)
4 and (c), this title applies to electronic records and electronic
5 signatures relating to a transaction.

6 (b) This title does not apply to transactions subject to the
7 following laws:

8 (1) A law governing the creation and execution of wills, codicils,
9 or testamentary trusts.

10 (2) Division 1 (commencing with Section 1101) of the Uniform
11 Commercial Code, except Sections 1107 and 1206.

12 (3) Divisions 3 (commencing with Section 3101), 4
13 (commencing with Section 4101), 5 (commencing with Section
14 5101), 8 (commencing with Section 8101), 9 (commencing with
15 Section 9101), and 11 (commencing with Section 11101) of the
16 Uniform Commercial Code.

17 (4) A law that requires that specifically identifiable text or
18 disclosures in a record or a portion of a record be separately signed,
19 including initialed, from the record. However, this paragraph does
20 not apply to Section 1677 or 1678 of this code or Section 1298 of
21 the Code of Civil Procedure.

22 (c) This title does not apply to any specific transaction described
23 in Section 17511.5 of the Business and Professions Code, Section
24 56.11, 56.17, 798.14, 1133, or 1134 of, Sections 1350 to 1376,
25 inclusive, of, Section 1689.6, 1689.7, or 1689.13 of, Chapter 2.5
26 (commencing with Section 1695) of Title 5 of Part 2 of Division

1 3 of, Section 1720, 1785.15, 1789.14, 1789.16, 1789.33, or 1793.23
2 of, Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1801) of Title 2 of Part
3 4 of Division 3 of, Section 1861.24, 1862.5, 1917.712, 1917.713,
4 1950.5, 1950.6, 1983, 2924b, 2924c, 2924f, 2924i, 2924j, 2924.3,
5 or 2937 of, Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 2945) of Chapter
6 2 of Title 14 of Part 4 of Division 3 of, Section 2954.5 or 2963 of,
7 Chapter 2b (commencing with Section 2981) or 2d (commencing
8 with Section 2985.7) of Title 14 of Part 4 of Division 3 of, or
9 Section 3071.5 of, the Civil Code, subdivision (b) of Section 18608
10 or Section 22328 of the Financial Code, Section 1358.15, 1365,
11 1368.01, 1368.1, 1371, or 18035.5 of the Health and Safety Code,
12 Section 662, 663, 664, 667.5, 673, 677, 678, 678.1, 786, 10113.7,
13 10127.7, 10127.9, 10127.10, 10197, 10199.44, 10199.46, 10235.16,
14 10235.40, 10509.4, ~~or 10509.7~~ *10509.7, 11624.09, or 11624.1* of
15 the Insurance Code, Section 779.1, 10010.1, or 16482 of the Public
16 Utilities Code, or Section 9975 or 11738 of the Vehicle Code. An
17 electronic record may not be substituted for any notice that is
18 required to be sent pursuant to Section 1162 of the Code of Civil
19 Procedure. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to
20 prohibit the recordation of any document with a county recorder
21 by electronic means.

22 (d) This title applies to an electronic record or electronic
23 signature otherwise excluded from the application of this title under
24 subdivision (b) when used for a transaction subject to a law other
25 than those specified in subdivision (b).

26 (e) A transaction subject to this title is also subject to other
27 applicable substantive law.

28 (f) The exclusion of a transaction from the application of this
29 title under subdivision (b) or (c) shall be construed only to exclude
30 the transaction from the application of this title, but shall not be
31 construed to prohibit the transaction from being conducted by
32 electronic means if the transaction may be conducted by electronic
33 means under any other applicable law.

34 SEC. 2. Section 38.5 is added to the Insurance Code, to read:

35 38.5. Any notice required to be given to any person by an
36 insurer relating to casualty insurance, as defined in Section 1850.4,
37 may be provided by electronic transmission pursuant to Title 2.5
38 (commencing with Section 1633.1) of Part 2 of Division 3 of the
39 Civil Code, if each party has agreed to conduct the transaction by
40 electronic means pursuant to Section 1633.5 of the Civil Code.

1 The affidavit of the person who initiated the electronic
2 transmission, stating the facts of that transmission, is prima facie
3 evidence that the notice was transmitted.

4 *SEC. 3. Section 560 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:*

5 560. Every insurer issuing an automobile collision policy, as
6 defined in subdivision (d) of Section 660, or a policy for
7 comprehensive coverage for a motor vehicle, as defined in Section
8 11580.07, shall, in the event of damage to a covered automobile
9 by collision or otherwise and the election by the insurer to have
10 such automobile repaired by the repairer, make payment by check
11 or draft, payable to the repairer or to the named insured and the
12 repairer, jointly, *or, with the consent of the insured and repairer,*
13 *by an electronic funds transfer to the repairer,* not later than 10
14 days subsequent to receipt of an itemized bill or invoice covering
15 repairs authorized by the insurer which have been satisfactorily
16 completed. The provisions of this section shall include all cases
17 where the insured has received actual notice that the repairer is
18 doing work pursuant to a contract approved by the insurance
19 company in which case the payment shall include the name of the
20 repairer.

21 *SEC. 4. Section 570 of the Insurance Code is amended to read:*

22 570. Except in the event that the insurer has previously obtained
23 a release on a loss, each insurer which issues, amends, or renews,
24 on or after January 1, 1975, a policy of insurance covering repair
25 or reconstruction work on commercial, industrial, or residential
26 real property and appurtenances thereon, shall, in the event of
27 covered work being performed by a licensee under the Contractors
28 License Law (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of
29 Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code), make payment
30 by check or draft directly to the contractor performing the work,
31 *or, with the consent of the insured and the contractor, by an*
32 *electronic funds transfer to the contractor performing the work,*
33 and not to the owner of the property, in every case in which all of
34 the following conditions are present and the insurer has actual
35 knowledge thereof:

36 (a) The property owner of record has, in a writing signed by
37 him and transmitted to the insurer, stated all of the following:

38 (1) The work completed meets with his satisfaction.

39 (2) The insurer, upon direct payment to the contractor, is
40 released from liability.

1 (3) The writing was not completed or signed by him until after
2 all work was completed.

3 (b) The property owners of record, the named insured, and any
4 loss payee have consented in writing to such direct payment and
5 release from liability.

6 (c) The completed work has been certified by the appropriate
7 public agency or authority as conforming to existing building,
8 electrical, and construction codes.

9 (d) Each subcontractor of the contractor, and each materialman,
10 to whom direct payment is to be made by the insurer has executed,
11 and filed of record, releases of any and all claims, including, but
12 not limited to, mechanic's liens, which the subcontractor and
13 materialman might have against the property or any appurtenance
14 thereof, the property owners of record, the named insured, and any
15 loss payee named in the policy, for any work the subcontractor
16 performed, or material the materialman furnished, upon the
17 property under the contract for which such payment is being made.
18 The property owner or the contractor, as the case may be, shall
19 submit to the insurer proof, satisfactory to it, of such execution
20 and filing prior to the insurer's making any direct payment provided
21 for by this article.

22 SEC. 5. Article 6 (commencing with Section 580) is added to
23 Chapter 6 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Insurance Code, to read:
24

25 Article 6. *Electronic Payment of Claims*
26

27 580. Every insurer required to make payment for a loss, may,
28 with the consent of the insured, make payment by an electronic
29 funds transfer. An insurer may not require an insured to consent
30 to payment by an electronic funds transfer.

31 SEC. 6. Section 779.19 of the Insurance Code is amended to
32 read:

33 779.19. All claims shall be promptly reported to the insurer or
34 its designated claim representative, and the insurer shall maintain
35 adequate claim files. All claims shall be settled as soon as possible
36 and in accordance with the terms of the insurance contract.

37 All claims shall be paid either by draft drawn upon the insurer
38 or, by check of the insurer, or, with consent of the insured, by an
39 electronic funds transfer to the order of the claimant to whom

1 payment of the claim is due pursuant to the policy provisions, or
2 upon direction of such claimant to one specified.

3 No plan or arrangement shall be used whereby any person, firm
4 or corporation other than the insurer or its designated claim
5 representative shall be authorized to settle or adjust claims. The
6 creditor shall not be designated as claim representative for the
7 insurer in adjusting claims; provided, that a group policyholder
8 may, by arrangement with the group insurer, draw drafts or checks
9 in payment of claims due to the group policyholder subject to audit
10 and review by the insurer.

11 *SEC. 7. Section 1759.7 of the Insurance Code is amended to*
12 *read:*

13 1759.7. All claims paid by the administrator from funds
14 collected on behalf of the insurer shall be paid only on checks or
15 drafts of, *or, with the consent of the insured, by an electronic funds*
16 *transfer from,* and as authorized by ~~such~~ the insurer.