Predictive Modeling, Big Data and Regulatory Concerns: A Healthy Tension?

> Chester J. Szczepanski FCAS, MAAA Senior Vice President & Chief Actuary The Donegal Insurance Group

A Practical Perspective : Historical Context



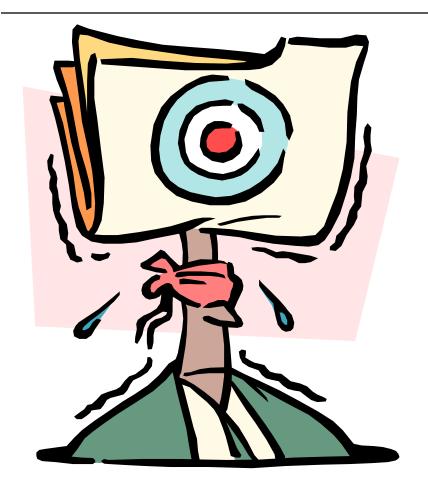
Statutory Review Standard

(officially and generally)

Rates neither:

- Excessive,
- Inadequate,
- Or unfairly discriminatory.

A Practical Perspective : Historical Context



Review standard (*unofficially*)

> Don't Screw Up!

A Practical Perspective: Efficient Solution

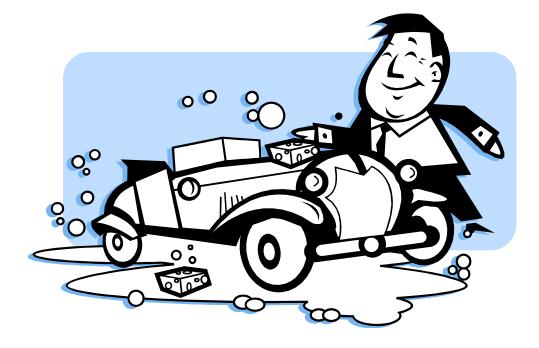


An Often Workable Solution:

> Competition in competitive markets can often regulate markets to the statutory standard.

A Practical Perspective: Personal Auto (& Commercial Auto Too!)

Why?How?



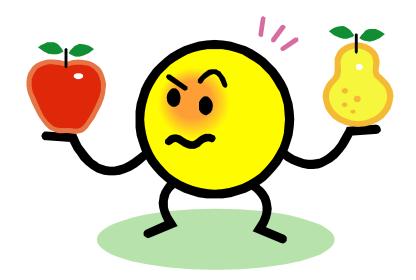
- The likely cornerstone of any company's business plan is profitable growth. The Personal Auto Book continues to be at the core of this strategy. Company's generally know that they must:
 - Identify and keep the better risks;
 - Attract more of these risks,
 - Refine pricing and selection among all risks, and
 - Avoid adverse selection.

- Personal Auto
 - Like Bonds in a diversified portfolio.
 - Generally lower volatility.
 - High volume.
 - Very predictable,
 - □ Modest limits,
 - □ Other statutory factors.
 - Must guard against loss ratio erosion,
 - □ Adverse selection!

A Practical Perspective: Key Observation

□ Adverse Selection, ...

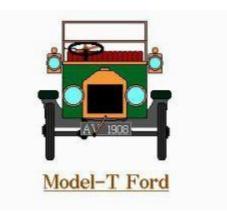
anti-selection, or negative
selection is a term used in
economics, insurance, risk
management, and
statistics. It refers to a
market process in which
undesired results occur
when buyers and sellers
have asymmetric
information.



- □ Intuitively we all know the key factors:
 - How many miles are driven,
 - Where are they driven,
 - When are they driven,
 - How are they driven,
 - And the insured's proclivity to use the insurance product.

Past Practice:

- Ask the insured for annual mileage.
- Ask the insured where the vehicle is garaged.
- Work, Pleasure or both?
- Past violations and accidents?
- Past claims?



Recent Practice:

- Credit Scores,
- Big Data,
- Predictive Models:
 - □ Location,
 - □ Education,
 - □ Income,
 - □ Other factors....



On the Horizon (Now?):

- □ Brave New World Is Here:
 - Fitness Devices,
 - Smartphones,
 - Auto Manufacturers.
- Accelerometers & Apps Everywhere!
- □ Everybody is monitoring.
- □ Who "owns" the data?
- More Importantly: Who knows how to leverage the data?





Key Points:

- Companies, like species, must compete. They either adapt or go extinct!
- Beyond the science, the devil is in the details.



Survival:

- Strength in data and analytics.
- Outliers, those that lag behind, become prey.

A Practical Perspective: Conclusion



- Competition works, but there can be . . .
- Tension with consumer interests.

A Practical Perspective: Structural Considerations

- □ Mandatory
 - coverage,
- Public acceptability,
- □ Consumerism.



A Practical Perspective: Asymmetric Information



- Many players are now using this information and employ these techniques.
- They are advantaging themselves at their competitors' expense.
- This is anathema to profitable growth for the less prepared and refined.

A Practical Perspective: Managing the Tension

Analytic framework to manage the tension and to guide regulatory response:

AAA Risk Classification
 Statement of Principles



A Practical Perspective: Managing the Tension



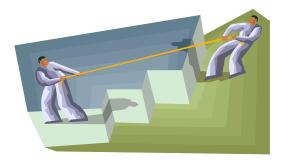
Purpose:

- To achieve and maintain viable insurance systems, the process of risk classification should serve three primary purposes. It should:
 - protect the insurance system's financial soundness;
 - be fair; and
 - permit economic incentives to operate and thus encourage widespread availability of coverage.

A Practical Perspective: Managing the Tension

A Regulatory Solution

- Rely on market place
 competition (*Economic Incentive*).
- Balance with an eye to assure fairness for all parties.



A Practical Perspective: Key Take-Aways

- □ For economic survival, companies must compete and keep up with the pack.
- Best practice is to exploit available technologies.
- Technologies are moving closer to measuring real risk factors.
- Regulators have a daunting task to balance the tension between fairness and competition.

