

## WFG Underwriting Bulletin



To: All Michigan Policy Issuing Agents of WFG National Title Insurance Company  
From: Underwriting Department  
Date: January 12, 2017  
Bulletin No: MI 2017-01  
Subject: Elimination of Dower Rights in the State of Michigan

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Please be advised that on January 6, 2017, Governor Rick Snyder signed versions of SB's 558 and 560 to complete enactment of a package of bills that abolish dower rights in the State of Michigan. The legislative package consisted of HB 5520, SB 558 and 560 and they are now Public Acts 378, 489 and 490 of 2016.

In a nutshell, the bill package does the following:

- Senate Bill 558 (Sen. Jones) - Abolishes a wife's dower right in both statute and at common law and repeals sections of the Revised Judicature Act that pertain to dower rights.
- House Bill 5520 (Rep. Kesto) - Deletes a provision that judgments of divorce and separate maintenance include a provision in lieu of dower.
- Senate Bill 560 (Sen. Jones) - Applies the right of dower only to a surviving widow whose spouse died before the effective date of Senate Bill 558.

Each of the bills will take effect March 7, 2017 (90 days after enactment).

NOTE: This Bulletin is for the sole purpose of establishing underwriting positions and policies reflecting WFG National Title Insurance Company's best business judgment. The information contained in this Bulletin is intended solely for the use of employees of WFG National Title Insurance Company, its title insurance agents and approved attorneys. Disclosure to any other person is expressly prohibited unless approved in writing by the WFG National Title Insurance Company's Underwriting Department.