

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF:

Proceedings by the Commissioner of Banking)	
and Insurance, State of New Jersey, to fine)	CONSENT
EZBIND, Inc., Reference No. 1589463)	ORDER

To: C/O: Salvatore Edward Castronova
EZBIND, Inc
3145 E. Chandler Blvd. Suite 110-303
Phoenix, AZ 85048

This matter, having been opened by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance (“Commissioner”), State of New Jersey, upon information that EZBIND, Inc. (“EZBIND”) (“Respondent”), may have violated various insurance laws of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Salvatore Castronova (“Castronova”) is currently licensed as a nonresident insurance producer in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:22A-34(a); and

WHEREAS, EZBIND is currently a nonresident business entity insurance producer licensed in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:22A-34(a); and

WHEREAS, Castronova is the Designated Responsible Licensed Producer of EZBIND;
and

WHEREAS, the Respondent is subject to the New Jersey Insurance Producer Licensing Act of 2001, N.J.S.A. 17:22A-26 to -48 (the “Producer Act”), the Producer Licensing regulations, N.J.A.C. 11:17-1.1 to -2.17 (“Producer Regulations”) and the regulations governing Insurance Producer Standards of Conduct, N.J.A.C. 11:17A-1.1 to 11:17D-2.8; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:22A-40a, the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew an insurance producer's license, and may levy a civil penalty for a violation of the Producer Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:22A-40a(2), an insurance producer shall not violate any insurance law, regulation, subpoena or order of the Commissioner or of another state's insurance regulator; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:22A-40a(8), an insurance producer shall not use fraudulent, coercive or dishonest practices, or demonstrate incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of insurance business in this State or elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 11:17B-3.1(b), any insurance producer charging a fee to an insured or prospective insured shall first obtain from the insured or prospective insured a written agreement, which shall be separate and apart from all other agreements and applications, and shall contain the following provisions and no other provisions: (1) A clear statement of the amount of the fee to be charged and the nature of the service to be provided therefor; (2) A statement that such fees are not a part of the premium charged by the insurance company and that such fees can be charged only if the insured or prospective insured so consents in writing; (3) A clear statement as to whether a commission will be received from the purchase of insurance; and (4) The signature of the insured or prospective insured and the licensed insurance producer and the date of execution of the agreement; and

WHEREAS, between 2016 and 2020, the Respondent charged a service fee on 898 commercial policies without entering into a written fee agreement, in violation of N.J.S.A. 17:22A-40a(2) and (8) and N.J.A.C. 11:17B-3.1(b); and

IT FURTHER APPEARING, that the Respondent:

- 1) Has admitted responsibility for the aforementioned violations;
- 2) Has cooperated with the investigation conducted by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance (“Department”); and

WHEREAS, cause does exist under N.J.S.A. 17:22A-40a and N.J.S.A. 17:22A-45c to impose a fine; and

WHEREAS, the Respondent has waived their right to a hearing on the aforementioned violations and consented to the payment of a fine in the amount of one hundred twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$112,500.00); and

WHEREAS, this matter should be resolved upon the consent of the Parties without resort to a formal hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS on this 13 day of December, 2021

ORDERED AND AGREED, that the Respondent pay a fine totaling \$112,500.00 to the Department; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND AGREED, that said fine shall be paid by certified check, cashier’s check or money order made payable to the “State of New Jersey, General Treasury,” or wire transfer, which shall be paid upon execution of this Consent Order; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND AGREED, that the signed Consent Order, together with the fine payment of \$112,500.00, shall be remitted to:

New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance
Attention: Virgil Downtin- Chief of Investigations
9th Floor, Consumer Protection Services, Enforcement Unit
P.O. Box 329
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND AGREED, that the provisions of this Consent Order represent a final agency decision and constitute a final resolution of the violations contained herein; and

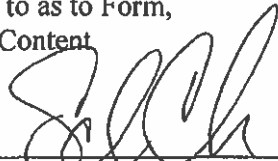
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND AGREED, that the Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in the conduct that gave rise to this Consent Order.



Marlene Caride
Commissioner

Consented to as to Form,
Entry and Content

By:



EZBIND, Inc.

Date:

12/8/21