By: Van Arsdale H.B. No. 3031

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3031:

By: Van Arsdale C.S.H.B. No. 3031

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the regulation of certain lines of property and

3 casualty insurance.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Article 5.13, Insurance Code, is amended to read

6 as follows:

- 7 Art. 5.13. SCOPE OF <u>SUBCHAPTER</u> [<u>SUB-CHAPTER</u>]. <u>(a)</u> This
- 8 <u>subchapter</u> [Sub-chapter] applies to every insurance company,
- 9 corporation, interinsurance exchange, mutual, reciprocal,
- 10 association, Lloyd's plan, [Lloyds] or other organization or
- 11 insurer writing any of the characters of insurance business herein
- 12 set forth, hereinafter called "Insurer"; provided that nothing in
- 13 this entire <u>subchapter</u> [<u>Sub-chapter</u>] shall [<u>ever</u>] be construed to
- 14 apply to any county or farm mutual insurance company or
- 15 association, as regulated under Chapters 16 and 17 of this code
- 16 [Code].
- 17 <u>(b)</u> This <u>subchapter</u> [<u>Sub-chapter</u>] applies to the writing of
- 18 casualty insurance and the writing of fidelity, surety, and
- 19 guaranty bonds, on risks or operations in this State except as
- 20 herein stated.
- 21 (c) Except as provided by Article 5.13-2 of this code, this
- 22 <u>subchapter</u> [This Sub-chapter] does not apply to the writing of
- 23 motor vehicle, life, health, accident, professional liability,
- 24 reinsurance, aircraft, fraternal benefit, fire, lightning,

tornado, windstorm, hail, smoke or smudge, cyclone, earthquake, 1 2 volcanic eruption, rain, frost and freeze, weather or climatic conditions, excess or deficiency of moisture, flood, the rising of 3 4 the waters of the ocean or its tributaries, bombardment, invasion, 5 insurrection, riot, civil war or commotion, military or usurped 6 power, any order of a civil authority made to prevent the spread of 7 a conflagration, epidemic or catastrophe, vandalism or malicious mischief, strike or lockout, water or other fluid or substance, 8 9 resulting from the breakage or leakage of sprinklers, pumps, or other apparatus erected for extinguishing fires, water pipes or 10 other conduits or containers, or resulting from casual water 11 entering through leaks or opening in buildings or by seepage 12 through building walls, including insurance against accidental 13 14 injury of such sprinklers, pumps, fire apparatus, conduits or 15 container, workers [workmen's] compensation, inland marine, ocean marine, marine, or title insurance; nor does this subchapter 16 17 [Sub-chapter] apply to the writing of explosion insurance, except insurance against loss from injury to person or property which 18 results accidentally from steam boilers, heaters or pressure 19 vessels, electrical devices, engines and all machinery and 20 21 appliances used in connection therewith or operation thereby.

(d) This <u>subchapter</u> [Sub-chapter] shall not be construed as limiting in any manner the types or classes of insurance which may be written by the several types of insurers under appropriate statutes or their charters or permits.

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26 <u>(e)</u> The regulatory power herein conferred is vested in the commissioner [Board of Insurance Commissioners of the State of

- 1 Texas. Within the Board, the Casualty Insurance Commissioner shall
- 2 have primary supervision of regulation herein provided, subject
- 3 however to the final authority of the entire Board].
- 4 SECTION 2. The heading of Article 5.13-2, Insurance Code,
- 5 is amended to read as follows:
- 6 Art. 5.13-2. RATES <u>AND FORMS</u> FOR <u>CERTAIN</u> [GENERAL LIABILITY
- 7 AND COMMERCIAL] PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE [COVERAGE].
- 8 SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2, Article 5.13-2, Insurance
- 9 Code, are amended to read as follows:
- 10 Sec. 1. PURPOSE. This article governs the regulation of
- 11 <u>insurance described</u> by <u>Section 2 of this article</u> [general
- 12 liability, commercial property, which shall include farm and ranch
- 13 owners and farm and ranch policies, all commercial casualty, and
- 14 medical professional liability insurance rates and forms. It does
- 15 not govern automobile, fidelity, surety, or guaranty bonds]. The
- 16 purposes of this article are to:
- 17 (1) promote the public welfare by regulating insurance
- 18 rates to prohibit excessive, inadequate, or unfairly
- 19 discriminatory rates;
- 20 (2) promote availability of insurance;
- 21 (3) promote price competition among insurers to
- 22 provide rates and premiums that are responsive to competitive
- 23 market conditions;
- 24 (4) prohibit price-fixing agreements and other
- 25 anticompetitive behavior by insurers;
- 26 (5) regulate the insurance forms used for lines of
- 27 insurance subject to this article to ensure that they are not

1 unjust, unfair, inequitable, misleading, or deceptive; and 2 provide regulatory procedures for the maintenance 3 of appropriate information reporting systems. Sec. 2. SCOPE. (a) This article applies to all lines of the 4 5 following insurance written under policies or contracts of insurance issued by an insurer authorized to engage in the business 6 7 of insurance in this state: 8 (1) general liability insurance; 9 (2) [7] commercial property insurance; (3) personal and[, all] commercial casualty 10 insurance, except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section; 11 (4) 12 [, and] medical professional liability insurance; (5) fidelity and surety bonds; 13 (6) personal umbrella insurance; 14 15 (7) personal liability insurance; (8) guaranteed auto protection (GAP) insurance; 16 (9) involuntary unemployment insurance; 17 (10) financial guaranty insurance; 18 19 (11) inland marine insurance; (12) rain insurance; and 20 21 (13) hail insurance on farm crops [written under policies or contracts of insurance issued by a licensed insurer, 22 other than a fidelity, surety, or quaranty bond or an automobile 23 24 insurance policy]. (b) This article does not apply to a line of insurance 25

(c) The commissioner shall adopt rules governing the manner

regulated under Subchapter A or C of this chapter.

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- 1 in which forms and rates for the various classifications of risks
- 2 insured under inland marine insurance, as determined by the
- 3 <u>commissioner</u>, are regulated.
- 4 SECTION 4. Section 3(2), Article 5.13-2, Insurance Code, is
- 5 amended to read as follows:
- 6 (2) "Insurer" means an insurer to which Article 5.13
- 7 of this code applies, but does not include the Texas Windstorm
- 8 Insurance Association or the Texas FAIR Plan Association. However,
- 9 the provisions of Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this article shall not
- 10 apply to Lloyd's or reciprocals with respect to commercial property
- insurance, and the provisions of Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of this
- 12 article shall not apply to Lloyd's or reciprocals with respect to
- 13 <u>inland marine insurance, rain insurance, or hail insurance on farm</u>
- 14 crops.
- SECTION 5. Article 5.52, Insurance Code, is amended to read
- 16 as follows:
- 17 Art. 5.52. PROVISIONS GOVERNING LIGHTNING, WINDSTORM,
- 18 HAIL, INVASION, RIOT, VANDALISM, STRIKES, LOCKOUTS AND OTHER
- 19 INSURANCE; "EXPLOSION" DEFINED. (a) The writing of insurance
- 20 against loss by lightning, tornado, windstorm, hail, smoke or
- 21 smudge, cyclone, earthquake, volcanic eruption, rain, frost and
- 22 freeze, weather or climatic conditions, excess or deficiency of
- 23 moisture, flood, the rising of the waters of the ocean or its
- 24 tributaries, bombardment, invasion, insurrection, riot, civil war
- 25 or commotion, military or usurped power, any order of a civil
- 26 authority made to prevent the spread of a conflagration, epidemic
- 27 or catastrophe, vandalism or malicious mischief, strike or lockout,

explosion, water or other fluid or substance, resulting from the breakage or leakage of sprinklers, pumps, or other apparatus erected for extinguishing fires, water pipes or other conduits or containers, or resulting from casual water entering through leaks or openings in buildings, or by seepage through building walls, including insurance against accidental injury of such sprinklers, pumps, fire apparatus, conduits or containers, and the rates to be collected therefor in this State, and all matters pertaining to such insurance except as hereinafter set out as to [inland] marine insurance as defined by Article 5.53 of this code, [rain insurance and insurance against loss by hail on farm crops, shall be governed and controlled by the provisions of Articles 5.25 to 5.48, inclusive, and also Articles 5.50 to 5.51, inclusive, of this subchapter and Article 5.67 of Subchapter D of this Chapter, in the same manner and to the same extent as fire insurance and fire insurance rates are now affected by the provisions of said articles of this code.

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- (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) of this section, rain insurance and hail insurance on farm crops are governed by Article 5.13-2 of this code.
 - (c) The term "explosion" as used in this article [above] shall not include insurance against loss of or damage to any property of the insured, resulting from the explosion of or injury to (a) any boiler, heater, or other fired pressure vessel; (b) any unfired pressure vessel; (c) pipes or containers connected with any of said boilers or vessels; (d) any engine, turbine, compressor, pump, or wheel; (e) any apparatus generating, transmitting or using

1 electricity; (f) any other machinery or apparatus connected with or 2 operating by any of the previously named boilers, vessels or machines; nor shall same include the making of inspections and 3 4 issuance of certificates of inspections upon any such boiler, 5 apparatus or machinery, whether insured or otherwise. Said term 6 shall include, but shall not be limited to (1) the explosion of pressure vessels (except steam boilers of more than fifteen pounds 7 8 pressure) in buildings designed and used solely for residential 9 purposes by not more than four (4) families; (2) explosion of any kind originating outside of the insured buildings or outside of the 10 building containing the property insured; (3) explosion of pressure 11 vessels which do not contain steam or which are not operated with 12 steam coils or steam jets; (4) electric disturbance causing or 13 14 concomitant with an explosion in public service or public utility 15 property.

SECTION 6. Article 5.53, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

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Art. 5.53. APPLICATION TO [INLAND] MARINE INSURANCE[, RAIN INSURANCE, OR HAIL INSURANCE ON FARM CROPS, DEFINITIONS, RATES AND RATING PLANS FILED; POLICY FORMS, CHECKING OFFICES]. The provisions of this article shall apply to all insurance which is now or hereafter defined by statute, by rules of the commissioner [ruling of the Board of Insurance Commissioners], or by lawful custom, as [inland] marine insurance[, rain insurance, or insurance against loss by hail on farm crops]. None of the terms contained in [this article and] Article 5.52 shall be deemed to include insurance of vessels or craft, their cargoes, marine builder's

- 1 risk, marine protection and indemnity, or other risk commonly
- 2 insured under marine as distinguished from inland marine insurance
- 3 policies.
- 4 The [Whenever used in this article the] term "Marine
- 5 Insurance" shall mean and include insurance and reinsurance against
- 6 any and all kinds of loss or damage to the following subject matters
- 7 of insurance interest therein:
- 8 Marine Insurance. Hulls, vessels and craft of every kind,
- 9 aids to navigation, dry docks and marine railways, including marine
- 10 builders' and repairers' risks, and whether complete or in process
- 11 of or awaiting construction; also all marine protection and
- 12 indemnity risks; also all goods, freights, cargoes, merchandise,
- 13 effects, disbursements, profits, moneys, bullion, precious stones,
- 14 securities, choses in action, evidences of debt, valuable papers,
- 15 bottomry and respondentia interests, and all other kinds of
- 16 property and interests therein, in respect to, appertaining to or
- 17 in connection with any and all risks or perils of navigation,
- 18 transit or transportation on or under any seas, lakes, rivers, or
- 19 other waters or in the air, or on land in connection with or
- 20 incident to export, import or waterborne risks, or while being
- 21 assembled, packed, crated, baled, compressed or similarly prepared
- for such shipment or while awaiting the same, or during any delays,
- 23 storage, transshipment or reshipment incident thereto, including
- the insurance of war risks in respect to any or all of the aforesaid
- 25 subject matters of insurance.
- 26 [(a) As to all classes of insurance contained in this
- 27 article, for which class rates or rating plans are customarily

fixed by rating bureaus or associations of underwriters, rates or rating plans, together with applicable policy forms and endorsements, shall be filed by all authorized insurers writing such classes with the Board in such manner and form as it shall direct; and all rates on risks not falling within a recognized class fixed by any such bureau or association, together with applicable policy forms and endorsements, shall be similarly filed. Due consideration shall be given to past and prospective loss experience within and outside the State, including catastrophe hazard, to a reasonable margin for profit and contingencies, and to all other relevant factors within and outside the State.

(b) As soon as reasonably possible after the filing has been made, the Board shall in writing approve or disapprove the same; provided that any filing of class rates or rating plans, together with applicable policies and endorsements, shall be deemed approved unless disapproved within thirty (30) days; provided the Board may by official order postpone action for such further time not exceeding thirty (30) days, as it deems necessary for proper consideration; and provided further that rates on risks not falling within a recognized class fixed by a rating bureau or association of underwriters, together with applicable policies and endorsements, shall be deemed approved from the date of filing to the date of formal approval or disapproval. The Board may investigate rates not required to be filed under the provisions of this article and may require the filing of any particular rate, together with applicable policies and endorsements, not otherwise required to be filed.

[(c) Any filing by an insurer of a rate less than an approved rate relative to any of the rates mentioned in sub-division (a) of this article may be used by such insurer after same shall have been approved by the Board, or after same shall have been on file with the Board without action for thirty (30) days.

- [(d) If at any time the Board finds that an approved filing no longer meets the requirements of this article, it may after hearing issue an order withdrawing its approval thereof.
- [(e) An insurer may satisfy its obligation to make such fillings by becoming a member of, or a subscriber to, a licensed rating organization which makes such fillings, and by authorizing the Board to accept such fillings on its behalf. A corporation, an un-incorporated association, a partnership, or an individual, whether located within or outside the State, may be licensed as a rating organization in connection with any of the sorts of insurance mentioned in this article, subject to the conditions, not inconsistent herewith, prescribed by law for such organizations in connection with other kinds of insurance, provided two or more insurers have designated it to act for them as to any such class or classes of insurance in the manner prescribed herein. An insurer may belong or subscribe to rating bureaus or associations for other types of insurance.
- [(f) Insurers may, subject to the supervision of the Board, operate any checking office or offices deemed necessary or advisable.
- [(g) The writing of inland marine insurance, rain insurance and insurance against loss by hail on farm crops, shall be governed

- by the provisions of Articles 5.25 to 5.48, inclusive, and also 1 Articles 5.50 to 5.51, inclusive, of this subchapter and Article 2 5.67 of Subchapter D. of this chapter, in the same manner and to the 3 4 same extent as fire insurance and fire insurance rates are now 5 affected by the provisions of said articles, except that wherever 6 in any of said articles reference is made to making, fixing, prescribing, determination or promulgation by the Board of rates or 7 8 policy forms or endorsements, the provisions of this article shall 9 control. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, 10 the flexible rating program created under Subchapter M of this chapter does not apply to this article. 11
- [(h)] The provisions of Chapter 5 of this code, other than
 this article, shall not apply to marine insurance as defined [other
 than inland marine insurance governed] by this article.
- SECTION 7. Section 1(a), Article 5.53-A, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:
- 17 (a) Any company licensed to engage in the business of fire 18 insurance and its allied lines, or <u>inland</u> marine insurance, or 19 both, is authorized to write home warranty insurance or home 20 protection insurance in this state.
- 21 SECTION 8. Subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h),
- 22 (i), (j), (k), (l), and (m), Article 5.97, Insurance Code, are
- 23 amended to read as follows:
- 24 (a) The <u>department</u> [State Board of Insurance] may take 25 action on filings for standard and uniform rates, rating plans, 26 manual rules, classification plans, statistical plans, and policy 27 and endorsement forms, or any modification of any of these for the

- lines of insurance regulated in Subchapter B, Chapter 5, of this
- 2 code [and for the regulated lines of insurance in Article 5.53 and
- 3 Article 5.53-A of this code under the procedure specified in this
- 4 article.
- 5 (b) Any interested person may initiate proceedings before
- 6 the commissioner [board] with respect to any matter specified in
- 7 Section (a) of this article by filing a petition with the <u>department</u>
- 8 [State Board of Insurance] that includes the following:
- 9 (1) specific identification of the matter that is
- 10 proposed to be adopted, approved, amended, or repealed;
- 11 (2) the wording of the matter proposed to be adopted,
- 12 approved, amended, or repealed; and
- 13 (3) justification for the proposed action in
- 14 sufficient particularity to inform the commissioner [board] and any
- interested person of the petitioner's reasons and arguments.
- 16 (c) A copy of each petition initiating a proceeding shall be
- marked with the date it was received by the <u>department</u> [State Board
- 18 of Insurance] and shall be made available for public inspection at
- 19 the office of the chief clerk of the department [board] throughout
- 20 the period the petition is pending. Except for emergency matters
- 21 acted on under Section (j) of this article, the <u>commissioner</u>
- 22 [board] may not act on a petition until it has been available for
- 23 public inspection for at least 15 days after the date of filing and
- 24 notice has been given in accordance with this section. Not later
- 25 than the 10th day before the date the commissioner [board] takes
- 26 action on any rule, rating plan, classification plan, statistical
- 27 plan, or policy or endorsement form under this article, the

department [board] shall publish in the Texas Register [a notice of the meeting or hearing at which the action will be taken. The notice must include] a brief summary of the substance of the proposed rule, rating plan, classification plan, statistical plan, or policy or endorsement form, and a statement that the full text of the rule, rating plan, classification plan, statistical plan, or policy or endorsement form is available for review in the office of the chief clerk of the department [State Board of Insurance].

- 9 (d) Any interested person may request [the board to hold] a
 10 hearing before the commissioner [it] acts on a pending petition.
 11 Except as provided by Article 5.97A of this code, the commissioner
 12 [board] has discretion whether or not to hold such a hearing.
 - (f) The <u>commissioner may</u> [board shall] hold a hearing to consider the proposal or <u>may</u> [shall] enter an order implementing or denying the proposal. If the <u>commissioner</u> [board] denies a proposal, <u>the commissioner</u> [it] shall specify the reasons for the denial in the commissioner's [its] order.
- (g) On its own motion, the <u>department</u> [board] may initiate a proceeding with respect to any matter specified in Section (a) of this article.
- (h) If a hearing is scheduled to consider a proposal, the department [board] shall publish notice in the Texas Register not less than 10 days before the hearing and shall state the time, place, and legal authority for the hearing and the matters to be considered.
- 26 (i) After entering an order with respect to any matter 27 specified in Section (a) of this article, the department [board]

- shall file a notice of the commissioner's [its] action for 1 publication in the adopted rule section of the Texas Register. 2 addition, before the effective date of the action, the department 3 4 [board] shall cause notice of the order to be mailed to the applicant, to all insurers writing the affected line of insurance 5 6 in this state, and to all other persons who have made timely written 7 request for notification. Failure to mail this notice will not 8 invalidate any action taken.
- 9 The commissioner's [board's] action takes effect 15 days after the date that notice of the action is published in the Texas 10 Register or on a later specified date. If the commissioner [board] 11 finds that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or 12 welfare, or a requirement of state or federal law requires the 13 commissioner's [its] action to be effective before the end of the 14 15 15-day period, the commissioner [it] may take emergency action to be effective at an earlier time. The commissioner's [board's] 16 action on an emergency matter may be effective for 120 days, and 17 renewable once for a period not exceeding 60 days immediately 18 following the 120-day period. The permanent adoption of an 19 identical change is not precluded. 20
- (k) Any person aggrieved by an order of the <u>commissioner</u>
 [board] is entitled to redress as provided by [Article 5.15,]

 Article 5.23[, Article 5.53, or Article 5.53=A] of this code[,

 whichever is applicable to the line of insurance addressed in the

 order].
- 26 (1) Chapters 2001 and 2002, Government Code, do [The 27 Administrative Procedure and Texas Register Act (Article 6252-13a,

- 1 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), does not apply to commissioner or department [board] action taken under this article.
- (m) The <u>department</u> [board] or the office of public insurance counsel may require that a person who has filed a petition under Subsection (b) of this article or who has otherwise presented materials to the <u>department</u> [board] in connection with a proceeding under this article provide additional information to the <u>department</u> [board] or office, including any statistical, actuarial, or other information on which the petition or other materials were based.
- SECTION 9. Subsection (c), Article 21.28-E, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:
- 12 (c) The provisions of this article shall not apply to marine 13 insurance <u>as defined</u> [other than inland marine insurance governed] 14 by Article 5.53.
- SECTION 10. Sections 4(b)(4) and (5), Article 21.49-3,

 Insurance Code, are amended to read as follows:
- 17 (4) After the initial year of operation, rates, rating plans, and rating rules, and any provision for recoupment should be based upon the association's loss and expense experience, together with such other information based upon such experience as the department [board] may deem appropriate. The resultant premium rates shall be on an actuarially sound basis and shall be calculated to be self-supporting.
- 24 (5) In the event that sufficient funds are not 25 available for the sound financial operation of the association, in 26 addition to assessments paid pursuant to the plan of operation in 27 accordance with Section 3(c)(2) of this article and contributions

- from the policyholder's stabilization reserve fund, all members 1 2 shall, on a basis authorized by the <u>department</u> [board], as long as deems it necessary, contribute to the 3 the department [board] 4 financial requirements of the association in the manner provided 5 for in Section 5. Any assessment or contribution shall be reimbursed to the members with interest at a rate to be approved by 6 7 the department [board]. Pending recoupment or reimbursement of 8 assessments or contributions paid to the association by a member, the unrepaid balance of such assessments and contributions may be 9 reflected in the books and records of the insurer as an admitted 10 asset of the insurer for all purposes, including exhibition in 11 annual statements pursuant to Section 862.001 [Article 6.12] of 12 this code. 13
- SECTION 11. Section 5(a), Article 21.55, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:
 - (a) This article does not apply to:
 - (1) workers' compensation insurance;
- 18 (2) mortgage guaranty insurance;
- 19 (3) title insurance;

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- 20 (4) fidelity, surety, or guaranty bonds;
- 21 (5) marine insurance <u>as defined</u> [other than inland
- 22 marine insurance governed] by Article 5.53 of this code; or
- 23 (6) a guaranty association created and operating under 24 Article 9.48 of this code.
- 25 SECTION 12. Article 21.56(e), Insurance Code, is amended to 26 read as follows:
- (e) The provisions of this article shall not apply to marine

- 1 insurance <u>as defined</u> [other than inland marine insurance governed]
- 2 by Article 5.53 of this code.
- 3 SECTION 13. Article 21.79E, Insurance Code, is amended to
- 4 read as follows:
- 5 Art. 21.79E. CREDIT INVOLUNTARY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.
- 6 Any insurer authorized to write any form of casualty insurance in
- 7 this state shall also be authorized to write group or individual
- 8 credit involuntary unemployment insurance indemnifying a debtor
- 9 for installment or other periodic payments on the indebtedness
- 10 while the debtor is involuntarily unemployed, including policy
- 11 forms and endorsements which define involuntary unemployment to
- 12 provide coverage and a premium charge for interruption or reduction
- of a debtor's income during periods of leave (paid or otherwise)
- 14 authorized by the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29
- 15 <u>U.S.C. Section 2601 et seq.</u>), as amended, or other state or federal
- 16 laws. Such insurance may be written alone or in conjunction with
- 17 credit life insurance, credit accident and health insurance, or
- 18 both, in policies issued by any authorized insurer, but not in
- 19 contravention of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act of
- 20 1983 (Chapter 15, Business & Commerce Code). Rates and forms for
- 21 such insurance may be made and filed in accordance with Article
- 22 5.13-2 [Articles 5.14 and 5.15] of this code.
- 23 SECTION 14. The following laws are repealed:
- 24 (1) Articles 5.14, 5.15, and 5.15B, Insurance Code;
- 25 (2) Article 5.97(e), Insurance Code; and
- 26 (3) Section 4(b)(2), Article 21.49-3, Insurance Code.
- 27 SECTION 15. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.