

By: Veasey

H.B. No. 984

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the election and qualifications of the commissioner of insurance.

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

SECTION 1. Section 31.022, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 31.022. ELECTION [APPOINTMENT, — TERM]. The commissioner is elected by the qualified voters at the general election for state and county officers for a term of four years.

~~[(a) The governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint the commissioner. The commissioner serves a two-year term that expires on February 1 of each odd-numbered year.]~~

~~[(b) The governor shall appoint the commissioner without regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin of the appointee.]~~

SECTION 2. Section 31.023, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 31.023. QUALIFICATIONS. The commissioner must:

(1) be at least 30 years of age [~~a competent and experienced administrator~~];

(2) be a United States citizen [~~well informed and qualified in the field of insurance and insurance regulation~~]; and

(3) have resided in this state for at least five years immediately preceding the date of the commissioner's election [~~of~~]

1 ~~experience in the administration of business or government or as a~~
2 ~~practicing attorney or certified public accountant].~~

3 SECTION 3. Sections 33.002(a) and (b), Insurance Code, are
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (a) A person is not eligible to serve [~~for appointment~~] as
6 commissioner if the person, the person's spouse, or any other
7 person who resides in the same household as the person:

8 (1) is registered, certified, or licensed by the
9 department;

10 (2) is employed by or participates in the management
11 of a business entity or other organization regulated by or
12 receiving funds from the department;

13 (3) owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more
14 than a 10 percent interest in a business entity or other
15 organization regulated by or receiving funds from the department;
16 or

17 (4) uses or receives a substantial amount of tangible
18 goods, services, or funds from the department, other than
19 compensation or reimbursement authorized by law.

20 (b) A person is not eligible to serve [~~for appointment~~] as
21 commissioner if the person:

22 (1) is a stockholder, director, officer, attorney,
23 agent, or employee of an insurance company, insurance agent,
24 insurance broker, or insurance adjuster; or

25 (2) is directly or indirectly interested in a business
26 described by Subdivision (1).

27 SECTION 4. Section 52.092(c), Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (c) Statewide offices of the state government shall be
3 listed in the following order:

- 4 (1) governor;
- 5 (2) lieutenant governor;
- 6 (3) attorney general;
- 7 (4) comptroller of public accounts;
- 8 (5) commissioner of the General Land Office;
- 9 (6) commissioner of agriculture;
- 10 (7) commissioner of insurance;
- 11 (8) railroad commissioner;
- 12 (9) [~~(8)~~] chief justice, supreme court;
- 13 (10) [~~(9)~~] justice, supreme court;
- 14 (11) [~~(10)~~] presiding judge, court of criminal
15 appeals;
- 16 (12) [~~(11)~~] judge, court of criminal appeals.

17 SECTION 5. Section 504.401(d), Transportation Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

- 19 (d) In this section, "state official" means:
- 20 (1) a member of the legislature;
 - 21 (2) the governor;
 - 22 (3) the lieutenant governor;
 - 23 (4) a justice of the supreme court;
 - 24 (5) a judge of the court of criminal appeals;
 - 25 (6) the attorney general;
 - 26 (7) the commissioner of the General Land Office;
 - 27 (8) the comptroller;

- 1 (9) a member of the Railroad Commission of Texas;
- 2 (10) the commissioner of agriculture;
- 3 (11) the commissioner of insurance;
- 4 (12) the secretary of state; or
- 5 (13) [~~(12)~~] a member of the State Board of Education.

6 SECTION 6. Sections 31.024 and 31.027, Insurance Code, are
7 repealed.

8 SECTION 7. (a) The first general election for commissioner
9 of insurance shall be held November 2, 2010, for a four-year term
10 beginning on January 1, 2011.

11 (b) Until the first commissioner of insurance elected under
12 this Act takes office, the commissioner serving on the effective
13 date of this Act shall, unless otherwise removed as provided by law,
14 continue in office under the prior law that governed the office, and
15 that prior law is continued in effect for that purpose. If on
16 January 1, 2011, there is a vacancy in the office of commissioner of
17 insurance created under this Act because the first
18 commissioner-elect has died or refuses or is permanently unable to
19 serve, the commissioner serving on that date shall, unless
20 otherwise removed as provided by law, continue in office under the
21 prior law that governed the office until the governor fills the
22 vacancy by appointment in the manner provided by law. The prior law
23 that governed the office of the commissioner of insurance is
24 continued in effect for that purpose.

25 SECTION 8. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
26 section, this Act takes effect January 1, 2011.

27 (b) Sections 1 and 7 of this Act take effect September 1,

H.B. No. 984

1 2009.