

By: Hegar

S.B. No. 647

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the continuation and operation of the office of public insurance counsel.

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

SECTION 1. Section 501.003, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 501.003. SUNSET PROVISION. The office is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the office is abolished September 1, 2023 [~~2011~~].

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 501, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 501.160 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.160. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.

(a) The office shall develop and implement a policy to encourage the use of appropriate alternative dispute resolution procedures under Chapter 2009, Government Code, to assist in the resolution of internal and external disputes under the office's jurisdiction.

(b) The office's procedures relating to alternative dispute resolution must conform, to the extent possible, to model guidelines issued by the State Office of Administrative Hearings for the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures by state agencies.

(c) The office shall:

(1) coordinate the implementation of the policy

1 adopted under Subsection (a);

2 (2) provide training as needed to implement the
3 procedures for negotiated rulemaking or alternative dispute
4 resolution; and

5 (3) collect data concerning the effectiveness of those
6 procedures.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.