

1-1 By: Hegar S.B. No. 647
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 16, 2011; February 28, 2011,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Government
1-4 Organization; March 15, 2011, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; March 15, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the continuation and operation of the office of public
1-9 insurance counsel.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 501.003, Insurance Code, is amended to
1-12 read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 501.003. SUNSET PROVISION. The office is subject to
1-14 Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued
1-15 in existence as provided by that chapter, the office is abolished
1-16 September 1, ~~2011~~ 2023.

1-17 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 501, Insurance Code, is
1-18 amended by adding Section 501.160 to read as follows:

1-19 Sec. 501.160. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.

1-20 (a) The office shall develop and implement a policy to encourage
1-21 the use of appropriate alternative dispute resolution procedures
1-22 under Chapter 2009, Government Code, to assist in the resolution of
1-23 internal and external disputes under the office's jurisdiction.

1-24 (b) The office's procedures relating to alternative dispute
1-25 resolution must conform, to the extent possible, to model
1-26 guidelines issued by the State Office of Administrative Hearings
1-27 for the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures by state
1-28 agencies.

1-29 (c) The office shall:

1-30 (1) coordinate the implementation of the policy
1-31 adopted under Subsection (a);

1-32 (2) provide training as needed to implement the
1-33 procedures for negotiated rulemaking or alternative dispute
1-34 resolution; and

1-35 (3) collect data concerning the effectiveness of those
1-36 procedures.

1-37 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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