

By: Frullo

H.B. No. 1298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the definition of commercial property insurance for  
3 purposes of certain provisions governing insurance rates and policy  
4 forms.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 2251.002, Insurance Code, is amended by  
7 amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as  
8 follows:

9 (1) "Commercial property insurance" means insurance  
10 coverage against loss caused by or resulting from loss, damage, or  
11 destruction of real or personal property provided through a  
12 commercial property insurance policy. The term includes any  
13 combination of:

- 14 (A) commercial fire or allied lines;  
15 (B) commercial inland marine insurance;  
16 (C) commercial crime coverage;  
17 (D) boiler and machinery insurance other than  
18 explosion;  
19 (E) glass insurance provided as part of other  
20 coverage; and  
21 (F) as authorized by commissioner rule,  
22 insurance covering other perils or providing other coverages or  
23 other lines of first party property insurance.

24 (1-a) "Disallowed expenses" includes:

1                   (A) administrative expenses, other than  
2 acquisition, loss control, and safety engineering expenses, that  
3 exceed 110 percent of the industry median for those expenses;

4                   (B) lobbying expenses;

5                   (C) advertising expenses, other than for  
6 advertising:

7                   (i) directly related to the services or  
8 products provided by the insurer; or

9                   (ii) designed and directed at loss  
10 prevention;

11                  (D) amounts paid by an insurer:

12                   (i) as damages in an action brought against  
13 the insurer for bad faith, fraud, or any matters other than payment  
14 under the insurance contract; or

15                   (ii) as fees, fines, penalties, or  
16 exemplary damages for a civil or criminal violation of law;

17                  (E) contributions to:

18                   (i) social, religious, political, or  
19 fraternal organizations; or

20                   (ii) organizations engaged in legislative  
21 advocacy;

22                  (F) except as authorized by commissioner rule,  
23 fees and assessments paid to advisory organizations;

24                  (G) any amount determined by the commissioner to  
25 be excess premiums charged by the insurer; and

26                  (H) any unreasonably incurred expenses, as  
27 determined by the commissioner after notice and hearing.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2301.002, Insurance Code, is amended by  
2 amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as  
3 follows:

4 (1) "Commercial property insurance" means insurance  
5 coverage against loss caused by or resulting from loss, damage, or  
6 destruction of real or personal property provided through a  
7 commercial property insurance policy. The term includes any  
8 combination of:

9 (A) commercial fire or allied lines;

10 (B) commercial inland marine insurance;

11 (C) commercial crime coverage;

12 (D) boiler and machinery insurance other than  
13 explosion;

14 (E) glass insurance provided as part of other  
15 coverage; and

16 (F) as authorized by commissioner rule,  
17 insurance covering other perils or providing other coverages or  
18 other lines of first party property insurance.

19 (1-a) "Form" means an insurance policy form or a  
20 printed endorsement form.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.